SUPERMAN
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NATIONAL COMICS
MYSTERY IN SPACE
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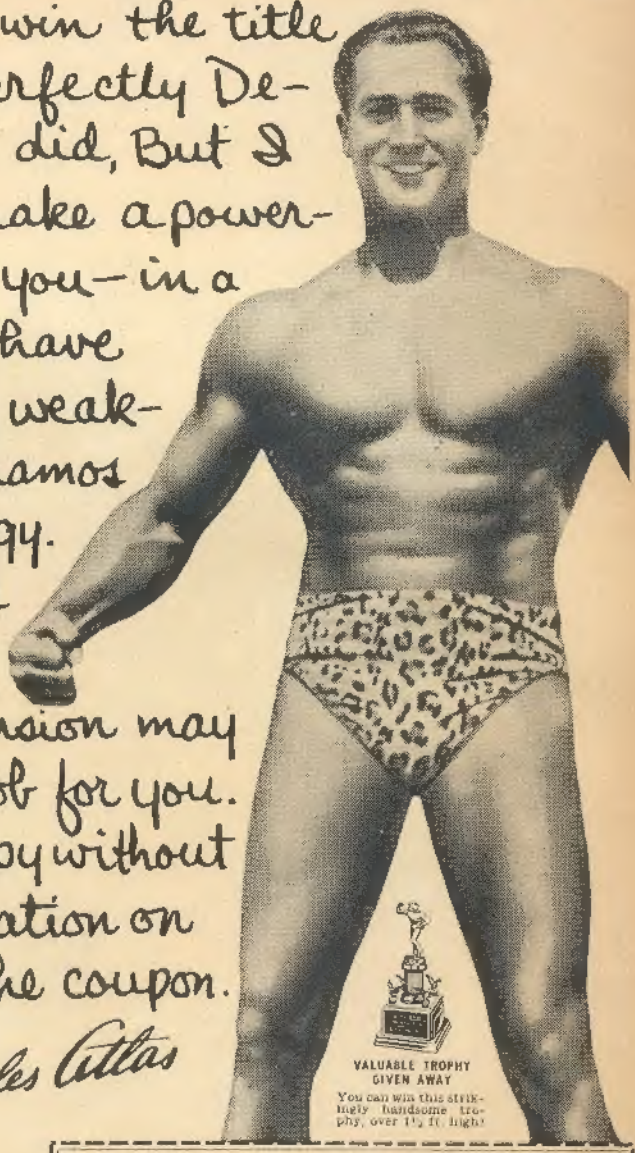
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
NOV.
NO. 63
ON A FAR-DISTANT WORLD, EARTH-HERO ADAM STRANGE BATTLES...
"The WEAPON THAT SWALLOWED MEN!"
THE ALIEN'S VACUUMIZER IS DISSOLVING ME--DRAWING ME INTO IT..!

Dear Friend—

My name is Charles Atlas. I can't promise that you'll win the title of "World's Most Perfectly Developed Man" as I did, But I do believe I can make a powerful He-Man out of you—in a very short time. I have turned thousands of weaklings into human dynamos of strength and energy. My big free book will tell you how my secret of Dynamic Tension may be able to do such a job for you. Let me send you a copy without a bit of cost or obligation on your part. Just mail the coupon.

Charles Atlas



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Dear Charles Atlas: Here's the kind of Body I Want

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- [ ] Broader Chest and Shoulders
- [ ] More Powerful Leg Muscles
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Send me absolutely FREE a copy of your famous book showing how "Dynamic Tension" can make me a new man. 32 pages, crammed with photographs, answers to vital health questions, and valuable advice. I understand this book is mine to keep and sending for it does not obligate me in any way.

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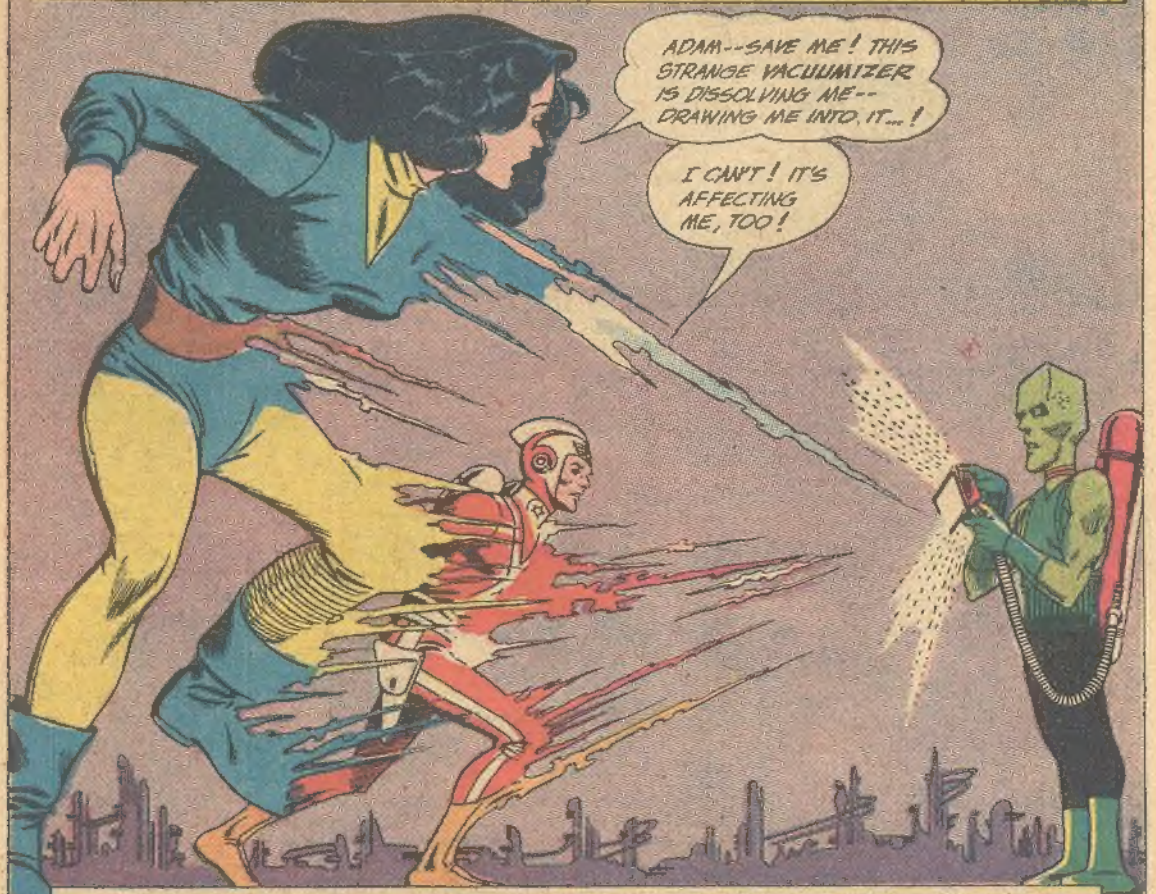
ADAM STRANGE

FOR ONCE ADAM STRANGE--THE EARTHMAN WHO IS REGULARLY TELEPORTED ACROSS 25 TRILLION MILES OF SPACE TO THE PLANET RANN ON THE WINGS OF A ZETA-BEAM--KNOWS THE SHARP BITE OF FAILURE!

NEVER BEFORE HAS A MENACE TO HIS ADOPTED PLANET DEFEATED HIM! YET NOW--CONFRONTED BY A WEAPON WHICH THREATENS THE LIFE OF HIS INTERPLANETARY SWEETHEART--AS WELL AS THAT OF RANN--ADAM FINDS HIMSELF DOOMED BY...

The WEAPON THAT SWALLOWED MEN!



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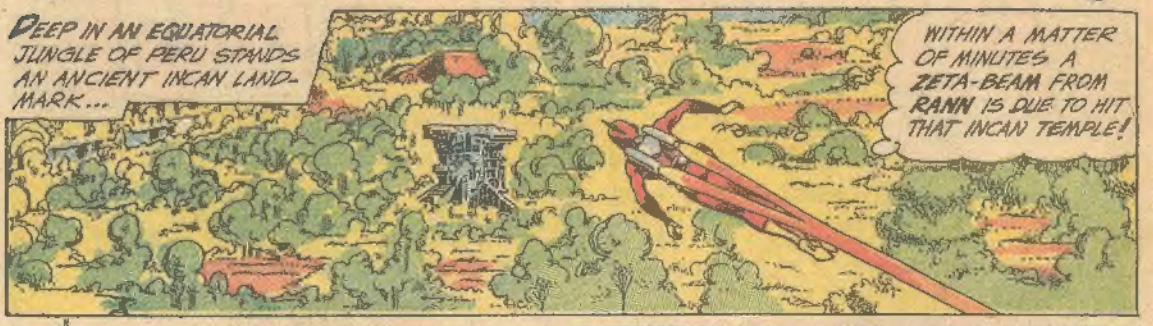
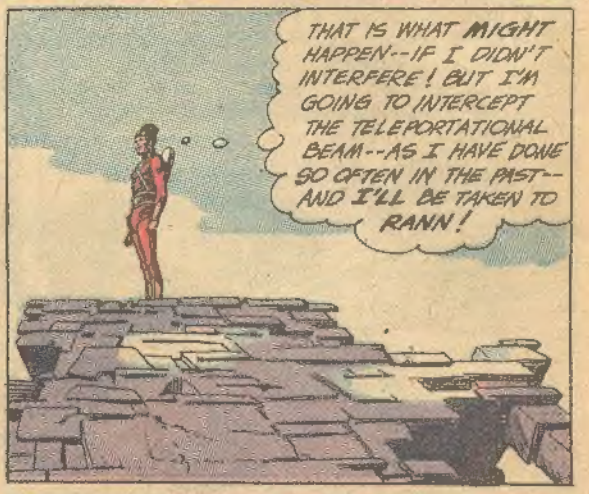
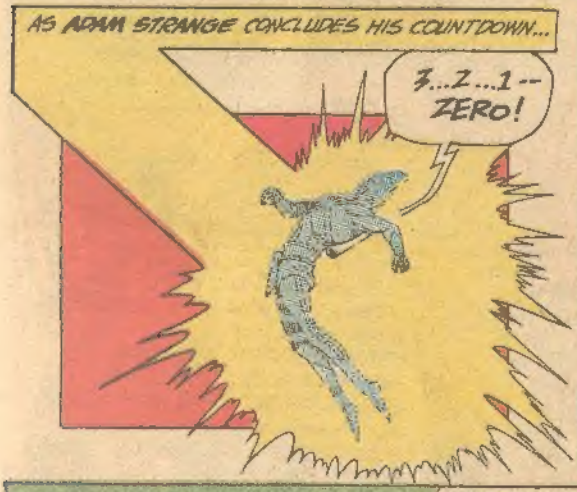

DEEP IN AN EQUATORIAL JUNGLE OF PERU STANDS AN ANCIENT INCAN LANDMARK...
WITHIN A MATTER OF MINUTES A ZETA-BEAM FROM RANN IS DUE TO HIT THAT INCAN TEMPLE!

"WHEN THAT HAPPENS ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS LANDMARKS OF SOUTH AMERICA WILL BE TELEPORTED OFF EARTH AND ACROSS 25 TRILLION MILES OF SPACE TO THE PLANET RANN..."


THAT IS WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN--IF I DIDN'T INTERFERE! BUT I'M GOING TO INTERCEPT THE TELEPORTATIONAL BEAM--AS I HAVE DONE SO OFTEN IN THE PAST--AND I'LL BE TAKEN TO RANN!

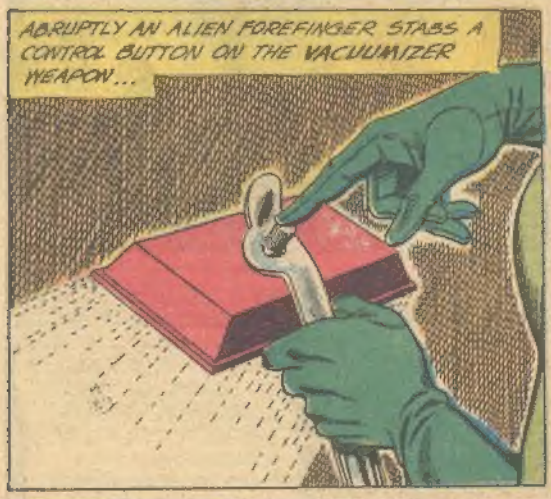

AS ADAM STRANGE CONCLUDES HIS COUNTDOWN...
3...2...1--ZERO!

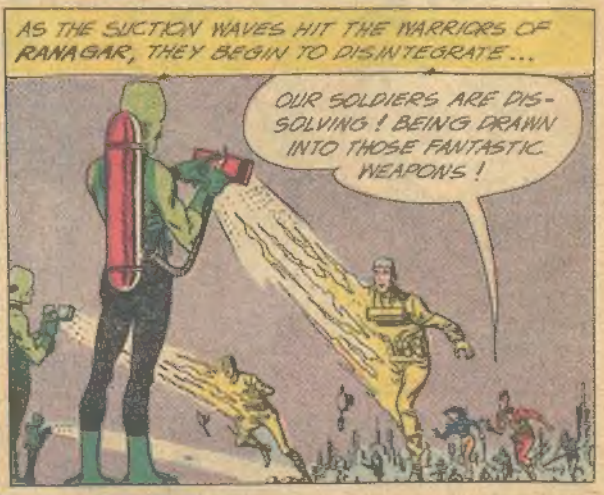
ALMOST INSTANTANEOUSLY HE APPEARS ON THE PLANET RANN WHERE HIS SWEETHEART ALANNA WAITS TO GREET HIM...
OH, ADAM, I'VE BEEN COUNTING THE MINUTES TILL YOU GOT HERE!
JUST AS I'VE BEEN COUNTING SECONDS, ALANNA!

AS THEY JET TOWARD THE CAPITAL CITY OF RANAGAR...
ON THIS VISIT, IS THERE ANYTHING SPECIAL YOU'D LIKE TO DO ON RANN, ADAM?
ON EARTH I AM AN ARCHEOLOGIST! I'M CURIOUS TO SEE THIS PLANET'S REMNANTS OF EARLIER CIVILIZATIONS!

NEXT DAY ADAM AND HIS RANN SWEETHEART JET TOWARD THE EON-OLD RUINS OF SUMURU...
LEGEND SAYS SUMURU WAS THE FIRST CITY EVER BUILT ON OUR PLANET--BY A REPTILIAN FORM OF LIFE...
AS THEY WANDER FROM A CRUMBLING STONE FOUNTAIN TOWARD A ROW OF PILLARS, A VOICE COMES TO LIFE OVER THEIR WRIST-RADIOS...
ADAM STRANGE! ALANNA! THIS IS AN EMERGENCY ALERT! RETURN AT ONCE TO RANAGAR!
OH, ADAM--WHAT CAN BE WRONG?
AT RANAGAR, SOON AFTERWARD--
ALIENS HAVE LANDED ON RANN AND ARE DEMANDING TO MEET A DELEGATION OF OUR PEOPLE! WE CHOOSE YOU TO SEE THEM AND LEARN WHAT THEY WANT!
SOON, THE EARTH-MAN AND RANN-GIRL STAND FACE TO FACE WITH THE INVADING ALIENS...
WHAT DO WE WANT? WE WANT YOU TO SURRENDER, OF COURSE! ORDINARILY, WE'D SIMPLY TAKE WHAT WE'RE AFTER, BUT FROM EXPERIENCE WE'VE LEARNED YOU HUMANS FEEL YOU MUST FIGHT FOR YOUR HOMES!
THAT'S RIGHT! WE WILL FIGHT!
OF COURSE--ONLY YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY DEFEAT US! NOTHING--ABSOLUTELY NOTHING--CAN OVERCOME OUR VACUUMIZER WEAPONS! STILL, YOU'LL PROBABLY FEEL CHEATED IF WE DIDN'T GIVE YOU AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUT UP A STRUGGLE, SO AT DAWN TOMORROW WE'LL ATTACK RANAGAR!

AS PROMISED, THE ALIENS ADVANCE ON RANAGAR, WHILE TO MEET THEM COMES THE FLOWER OF THE CITY'S FIGHTING MEN, LED BY ADAM AND ALANNA...
WE'LL OUTFLANK THEM AND GET THEM IN A CROSSFIRE!

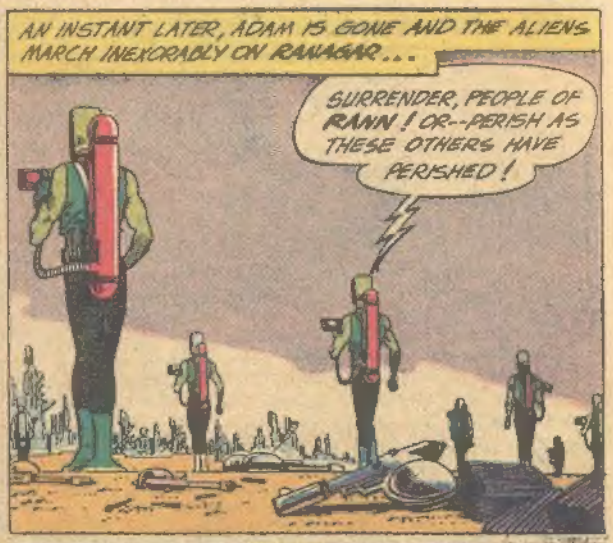

ABRUPTLY AN ALIEN FOREFINGER STABS A CONTROL BUTTON ON THE VACUUMIZER WEAPON...

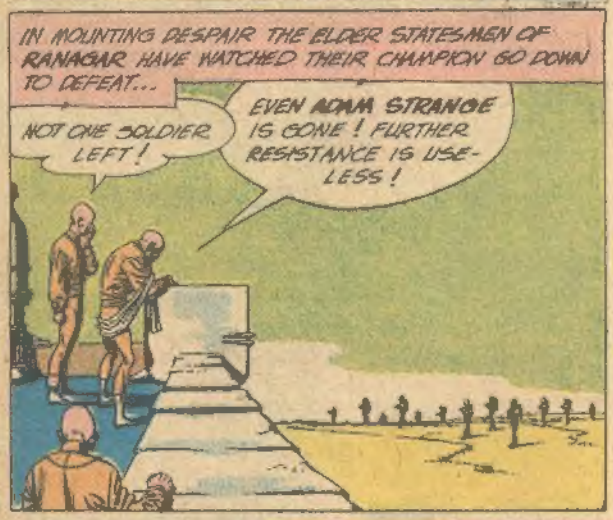

AS THE SUCTION WAVES HIT THE WARRIORS OF RANAGAR, THEY BEGIN TO DISINTEGRATE...
OUR SOLDIERS ARE DISSOLVING! BEING DRAWN INTO THOSE FANTASTIC WEAPONS!

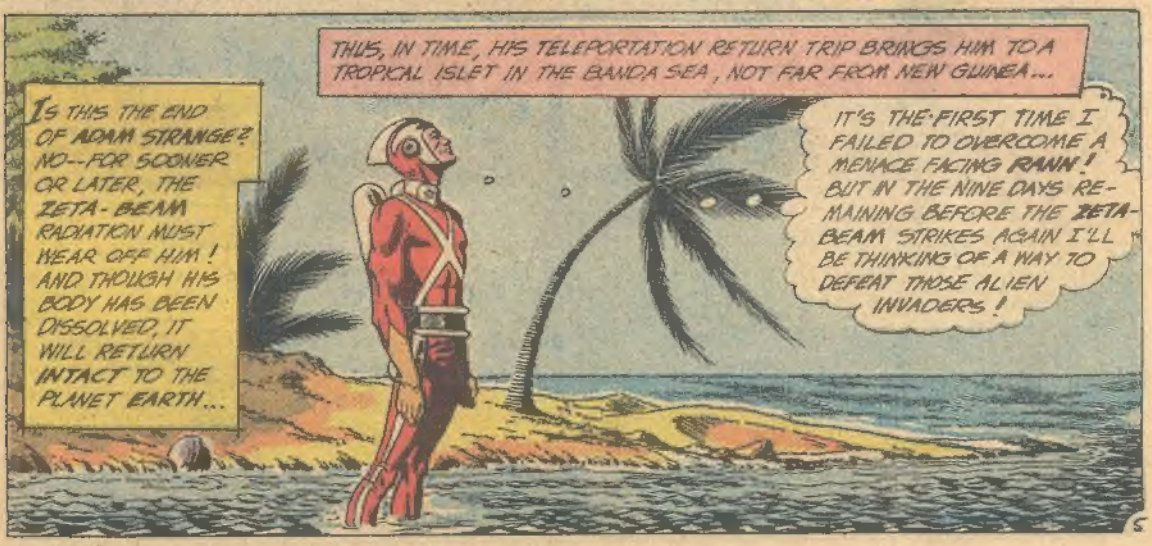
SOON THE GROUND IS LITTERED WITH USELESS RAY-GUNS AS MORE AND MORE OF THE RANAGARANS DISAPPEAR...
OUR RAY-GUNS HIT THE INVADERS--BUT THEY'RE NOT BEING OVERPOWERED!
KEEP FIRING! KEEP FIRING!

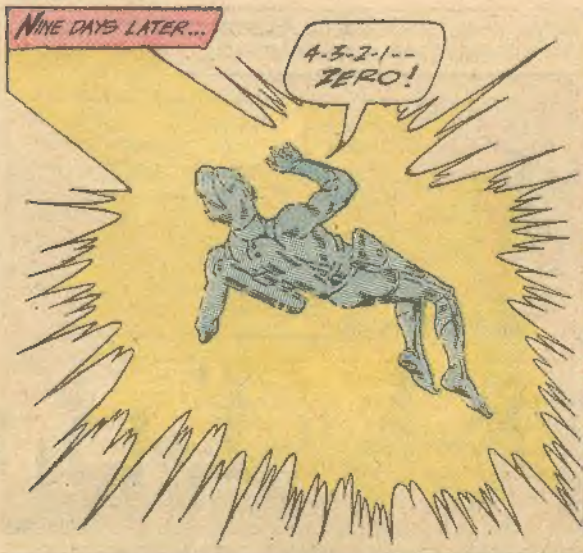
THEN A VACUUMIZER TURNS ITS FULL POWER ON ALANNA OF RANAGAR...
ADAM--SAVE ME! I FEEL MYSELF TURNING INTO SOME KIND OF GAS...

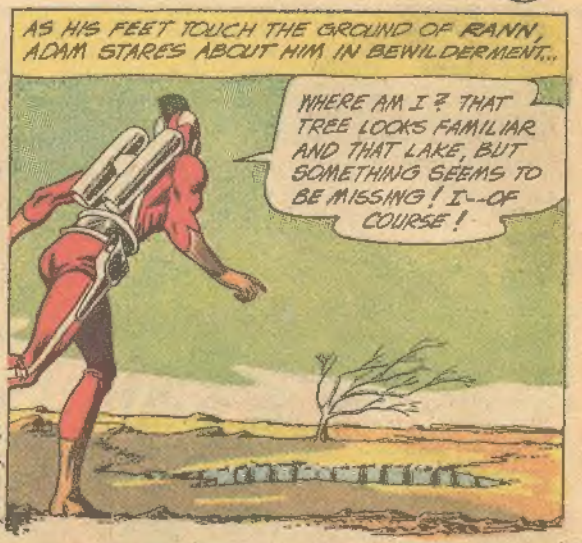
SECONDS LATER, ADAM'S RANN-SWEETHEART IS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN--AND THE THE EARTH-MAN HIMSELF IS SWALLOWED UP BY THE ODD WEAPON...
I--I'VE FAILED RANAGAR... ALANNA... MYSELF!...


AN INSTANT LATER, ADAM IS GONE AND THE ALIENS MARCH INEXORABLY ON RANAGAR...
SURRENDER, PEOPLE OF RANN! OR--PERISH AS THESE OTHERS HAVE PERISHED!

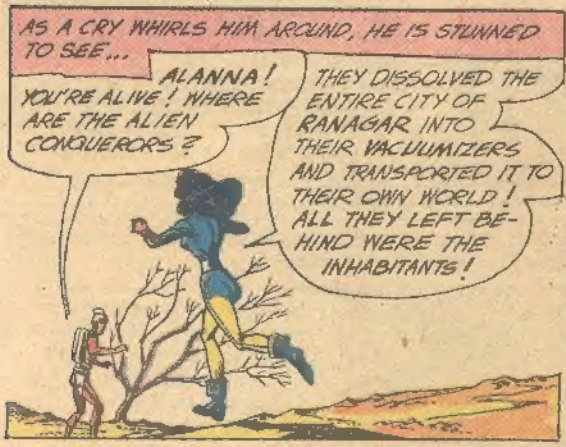

IN MOUNTING DESPAIR THE ELDER STATESMEN OF RANAGAR HAVE WATCHED THEIR CHAMPION GO DOWN TO DEFEAT...
NOT ONE SOLDIER LEFT!
EVEN ADAM STRANGE IS GONE! FURTHER RESISTANCE IS USE-LESS!


THUS, IN TIME, HIS TELEPORTATION RETURN TRIP BRINGS HIM TO A TROPICAL ISLET IN THE BANDA SEA, NOT FAR FROM NEW GUINEA...
IS THIS THE END OF ADAM STRANGE? NO--FOR SOONER OR LATER, THE ZETA-BEAM RADIATION MUST WEAR OFF HIM! AND THOUGH HIS BODY HAS BEEN DISSOLVED, IT WILL RETURN INTACT TO THE PLANET EARTH...
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I FAILED TO OVERCOME A MENACE FACING RANN! BUT IN THE NINE DAYS RE-MAINING BEFORE THE ZETA-BEAM STRIKES AGAIN I'LL BE THINKING OF A WAY TO DEFEAT THOSE ALIEN INVADERS!

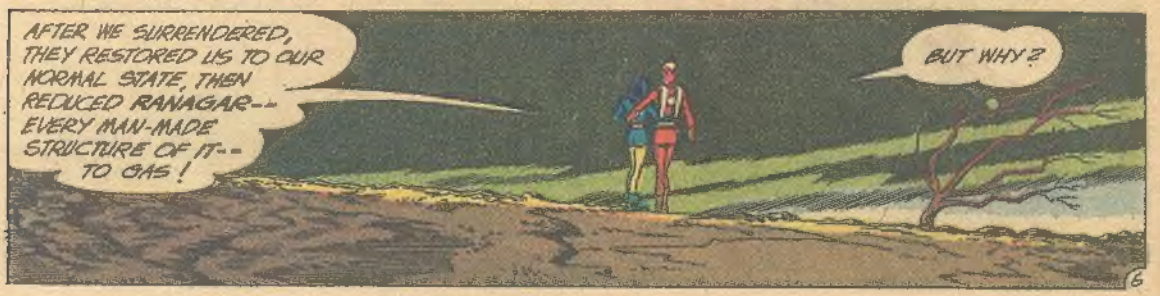

NINE DAYS LATER...
4-3-2-1--ZERO!

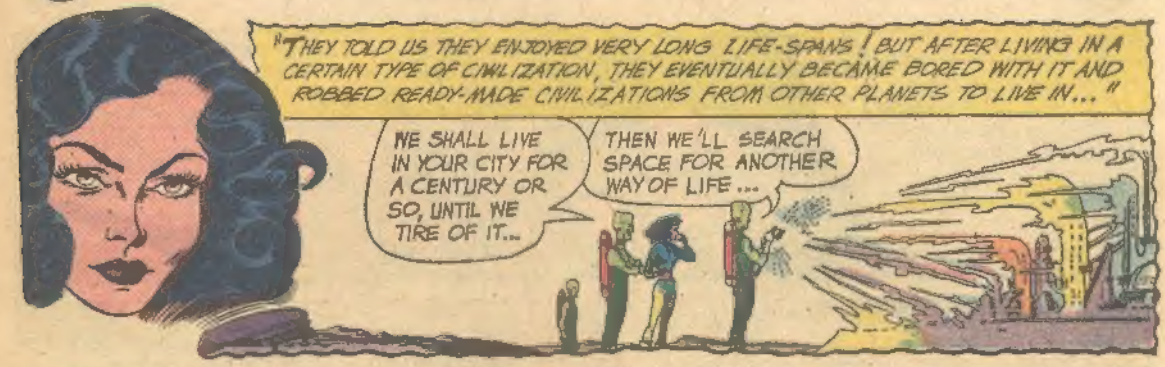

AS HIS FEET TOUCH THE GROUND OF RANN, ADAM STARES ABOUT HIM IN BEWILDERMENT...
WHERE AM I? THAT TREE LOOKS FAMILIAR AND THAT LAKE, BUT SOMETHING SEEMS TO BE MISSING! I--OF COURSE!

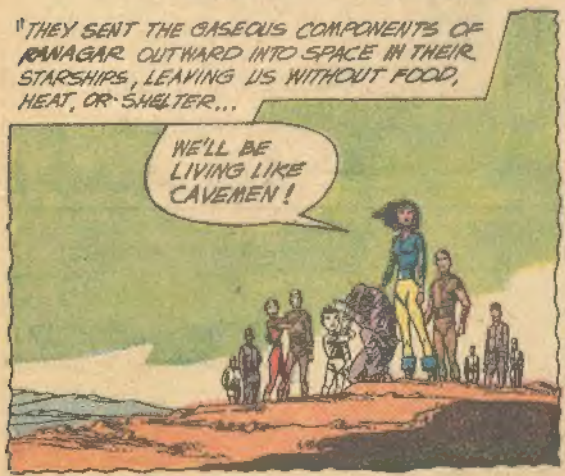
I'M STANDING WHERE THE CITY OF RANAGAR USED TO STAND! BUT IN SOME INCREDIBLE MANNER, IT'S DISAPPEARED COMPLETELY! WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO RANAGAR... AND ITS INHABITANTS?!


AS A CRY WHIRLS HIM AROUND, HE IS STUNNED TO SEE...
ALANNA! YOU'RE ALIVE! WHERE ARE THE ALIEN CONQUERORS?
THEY DISSOLVED THE ENTIRE CITY OF RANAGAR INTO THEIR VACUUMIZERS AND TRANSPORTED IT TO THEIR OWN WORLD! ALL THEY LEFT BEHIND WERE THE INHABITANTS!

THOSE VACUUMIZERS ALTERED OUR MOLECULAR STRUCTURE--TURNED US INTO GASEOUS MATTER WHICH THEY STORED IN THEIR TANKS!


AFTER WE SURRENDERED, THEY RESTORED US TO OUR NORMAL STATE, THEN REDUCED RANAGAR--EVERY MAN-MADE STRUCTURE OF IT--TO GAS!
BUT WHY?


"THEY TOLD US THEY ENJOYED VERY LONG LIFE-SPANS! BUT AFTER LIVING IN A CERTAIN TYPE OF CIVILIZATION, THEY EVENTUALLY BECAME BORED WITH IT AND ROBBED READY-MADE CIVILIZATIONS FROM OTHER PLANETS TO LIVE IN..."
WE SHALL LIVE IN YOUR CITY FOR A CENTURY OR SO, UNTIL WE TIRE OF IT...
THEN WE'LL SEARCH SPACE FOR ANOTHER WAY OF LIFE...


"THEY SENT THE GASEOUS COMPONENTS OF RANAGAR OUTWARD INTO SPACE IN THEIR STARSHIPS, LEAVING US WITHOUT FOOD, HEAT, OR SHELTER...
WE'LL BE LIVING LIKE CAVEMEN!

I THINK THE WORST PART IS, WE HAVE NO HOPE! THERE ISN'T ANY WAY WE CAN GET BACK OUR CITY!
OH, YES THERE IS! I HAD MORE THAN A WEEK ON EARTH TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO OVERCOME THEIR VACUUMIZER WEAPONS!

AS ALANNA SUMMONS THE MEN AND WOMEN OF RANAGAR, ADAM EXPLAINS...
I NOTICED THAT THE VACUUMIZERS DIDN'T DISSOLVE THE METAL OF OUR RAY-GUNS AND BELT BUCKLES! THAT'S BECAUSE THEY WERE ADJUSTED TO DISSOLVE THE CARBON OF OUR BODIES! IF WE WERE TO COAT OURSELVES WITH DIFFERENT METALS--

IT WOULD BE LIKE WEARING SEVERAL COATS OF METALLIC ARMOR! IN THE TIME IT WOULD TAKE THE ALIENS TO DISCOVER OUR RUSE, WE COULD COME TO GRIPS WITH THEM, FIGHT THEM HAND-TO-HAND!

FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS ADAM TRAINS RANAGAR MEN IN EARTH-FIGHTING TACTICS...
THE ALIENS ARE STILL ON RANN, GATHERING OTHER CITIES! SOON NOW WE'LL BE READY TO ATTACK!

THE SURPRISE ATTACK ON THE ALIENS BEGINS AS ADAM LEADS HIS METALLIC-ARMORED TROOPS ACROSS A HUNDRED YARDS OF OPEN GROUND...
THOSE FOOLS! DON'T THEY KNOW WHEN THEY'RE BEATEN?

THE VACUUMIZERS ARE LIFTED AND AIMED AT THE ONRUSHING SOLDIERS OF RANAGAR...
I HAVE IT ON FULL POWER--BUT THEY'RE NOT DIS-SOLVING!
LET ME TAKE A LOOK!

THEY'RE SLY, THESE HUMANS! THEY'VE COATED THEIR BODIES WITH A TRANSPARENT SOLUTION OF LIQUID IRON...
AH! THEN I'LL ADJUST THE VACUUMIZER TO DISSOLVE IRON...

AGAIN THE VACUUMIZERS THROB WITH POWER, BUT STILL THE RANAGARANS RUSH FORWARD...
THE IRON DISSOLVED--BUT THEY KEEP MOVING!...
I SEE THE REASON! UNDERNEATH THE IRON, THEY COATED THEMSELVES WITH TIN! HURRY--MAKE THE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENT! THEY'RE GETTING CLOSER!

AFTER THE TIN COATING IS ABSORBED, THE ARMY RACES ALONG PROTECTED BY SHEATHINGS OF COPPER--AND AS THE VACUUMIZER REMOVES THAT, BY GOLD...
TWENTY YARDS TO GO! STAY TO-GETHER! HIT THEM HARD!

THE THIN GOLDEN ARMOR GONE, THE ATTACKERS ARE REVEALED IN COBALT ARMOR--THEN IN A LAYER OF BARIUM--
THERE GOES OUR LAST COATING! NOW WE'VE GOT TO FIGHT THEM WITH OUR HANDS!

IN VICIOUS HAND-TO-HAND ENCOUNTERS, THE SPECIALLY TRAINED WARRIORS OF RANAGAR RIP LOOSE THE HOSE CONNECTIONS OF THE ALIENS' VACUUMIZERS...

LET'S SEE HOW TOUGH THESE ALIENS ARE WITHOUT THEIR DEADLY WEAPONS!

WITH THE VACUUMIZERS NOW IN THE POSSESSION OF THEIR CONQUERORS, THE ALIENS HAVE NO COURSE LEFT TO THEM BUT TO SURRENDER...

YOU WILL RETURN THE CITIES OF RANN TO THEIR FORMER SITES! TO MAKE CERTAIN YOU NEVER RAID HERE AGAIN, WE'LL KEEP YOUR VACUUMIZERS!

AGREED! THE CITIES SHALL BE RETURNED!

FOR A DAY AND A NIGHT THE VACUUMIZING PROJECT IS REVERSED AS RANAGAR RESHAPES ITSELF OUT OF CLOUDS OF FLOATING GAS...

WE OWE ALL THIS TO YOU, ADAM! IT'S TIME I GAVE YOU MY--PERSONAL THANKS.

OHH--YOU'RE DISAPPEARING--GOING BACK TO EARTH! I PROMISE, DARLING--WHEN YOU RETURN--I'LL BE WAITING--TO GIVE YOU A GREAT BIG KISS!

DON'T MISS THE NEXT EXCITING ADAM STRANGE ADVENTURE IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF MYSTERY IN SPACE!

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OUR AMAZING UNIVERSE!

METEORS OCCASIONALLY LEAVE PHOSPHORESCENT TRAILS IN THE SKY WHICH GRADUALLY DRIFT AND CHANGE SHAPE - AN EFFECT CAUSED BY THE MOTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE

FIREBALL METEOR LEAVING A TRAIL WHICH BECOMES PROGRESSIVELY DEFORMED

THE **GREATER MAGELLANIC CLOUD** IS SO "CLOSE" TO OUR MILKY WAY GALAXY--A MERE 75,000 LIGHT YEARS (441,000,000,000,000,000 MILES)--THAT IT MAY BE CONSIDERED A **SATELLITE** OF OUR GALAXY...

GREATER MAGELLANIC CLOUD

CLOUDS OF DARK, DIFFUSE MATTER IN FRONT OF THE **TRIFID NEBULA** IN SAGITTARIUS GIVE THE ILLUSION OF DIVIDING THE NEBULA INTO THREE MAIN PARTS...

WITHOUT OPTICAL AIDS, THE HUMAN EYE CAN SEE STARS RANGING IN BRIGHTNESS FROM THE 1ST THRU THE 6TH MAGNITUDES. 6TH MAGNITUDE STARS ARE 100 TIMES **FAINTER** THAN THOSE OF THE 1ST MAGNITUDE...

THE AREAS OF THE CIRCLES ARE PROPORTIONAL TO THE BRIGHTNESS OF STARS OF THE FIRST 6 MAGNITUDES

JUST IMAGINE!
THE MIGHTIEST HEROES OF OUR TIME...
SUPERMAN!
BATMAN!
FLASH!
GREEN LANTERN!
WONDER WOMAN!
AQUAMAN!
J'ONN J'ONZZ-
MANHUNTER FROM MARS!
10¢
LEAGUE
I'VE GOT THIS GAME RIGGED SO THAT EVERY-TIME FLASH MAKES A MOVE, A MEMBER OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE DISAPPEARS FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH!
A STAR STUDDED SPECTACULAR- "WORLD OF NO RETURN!"
...HAVE BANDED TOGETHER AS THE
JUSTICE LEAGUE of AMERICA
TO STAMP OUT THE FORCES OF EVIL WHEREVER AND WHENEVER THEY APPEAR!
APPEAR IN
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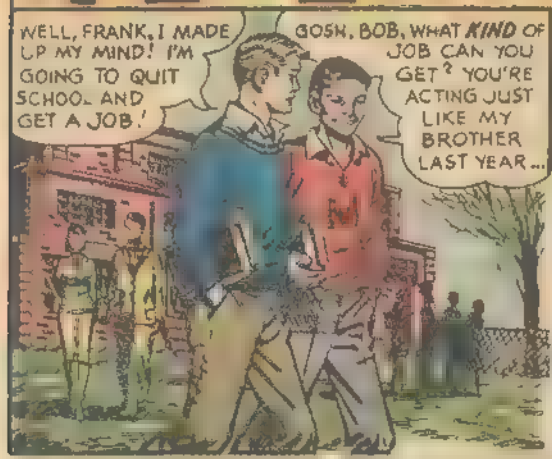
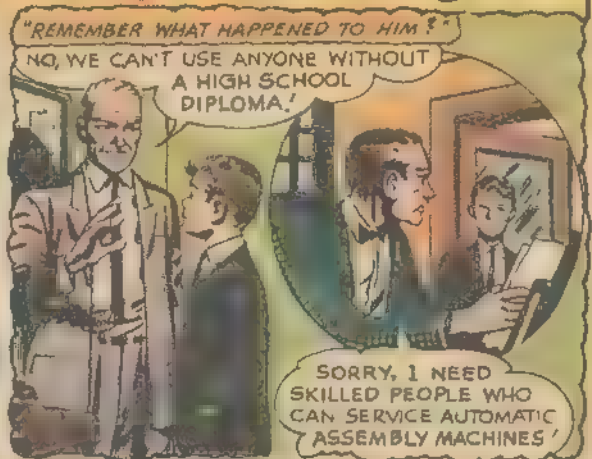
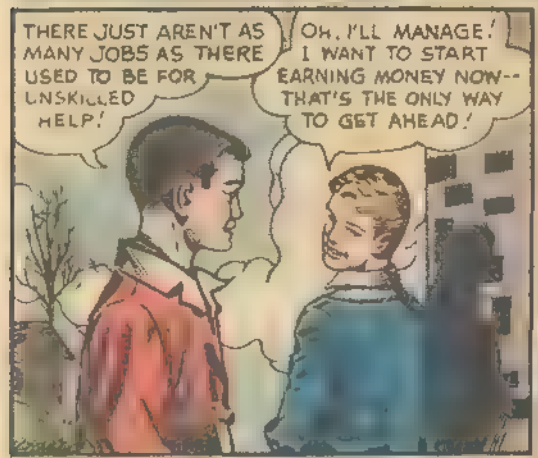
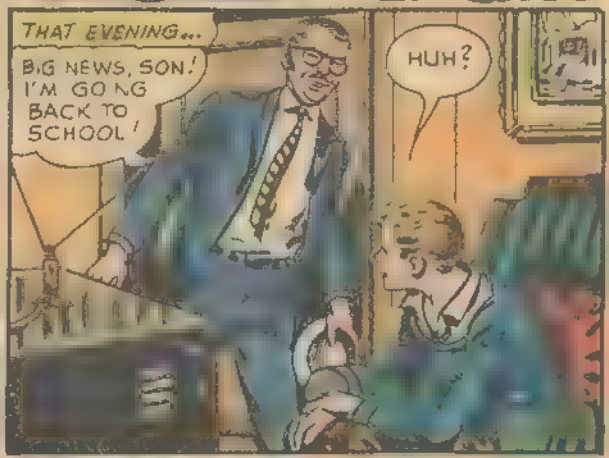
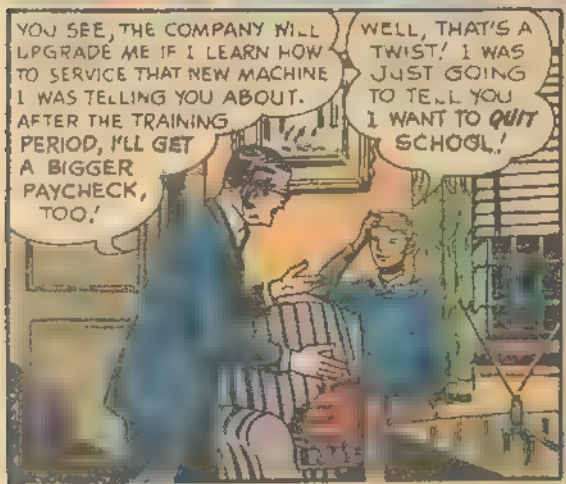
KEEP LEARNING -- the Key to SUCCESS!

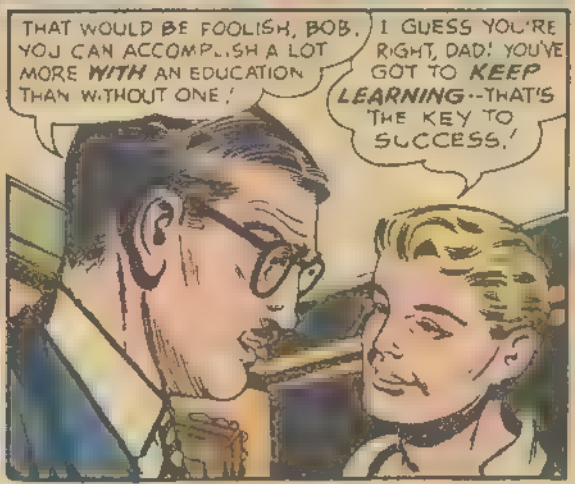












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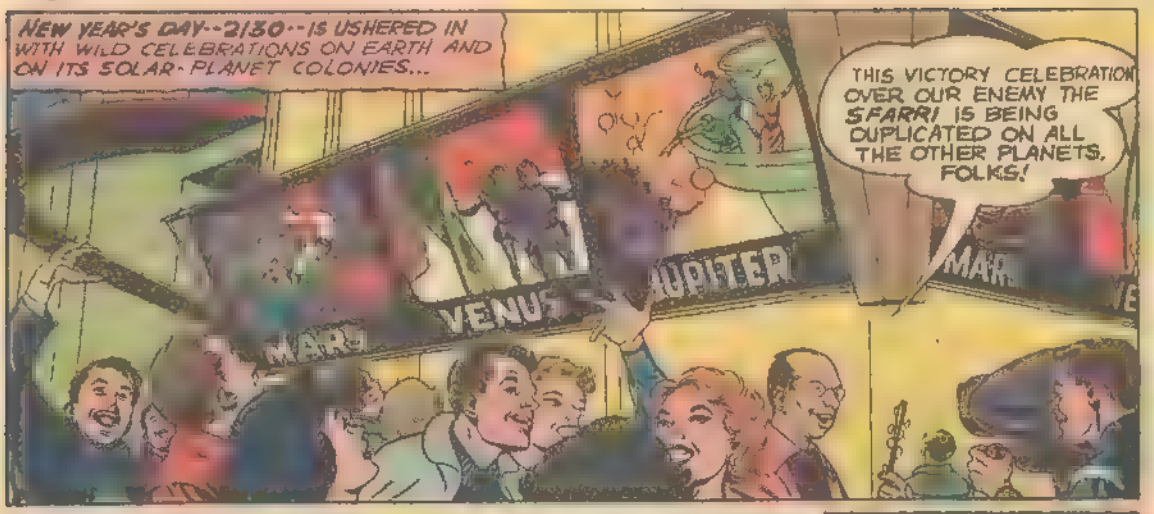
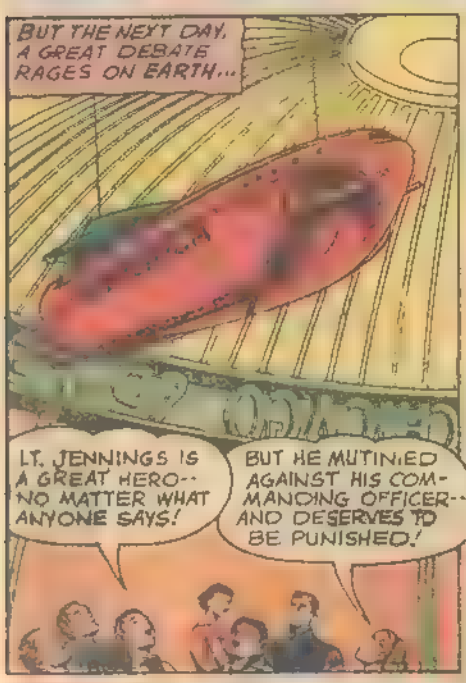
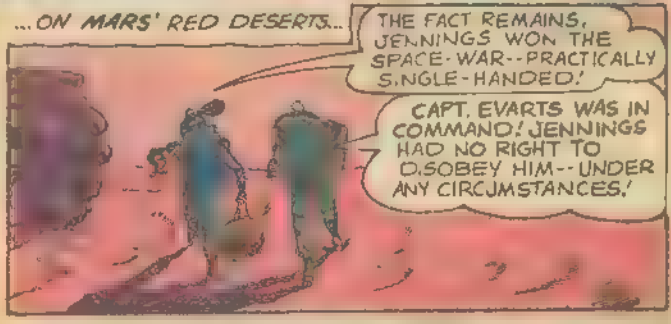
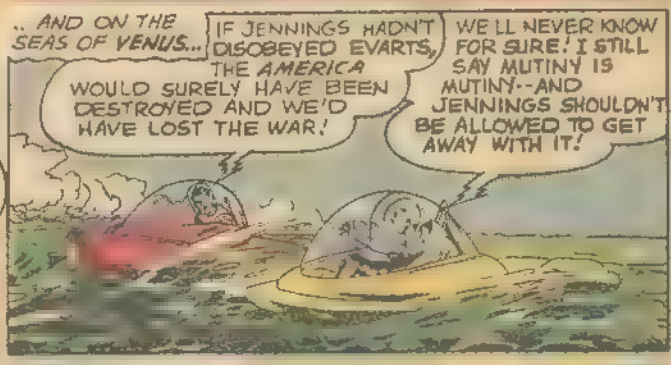
COORDINATING ORGANIZATION FOR NATIONAL HEALTH WELFARE AND RECREATION AGENCIES OF THE U. S.

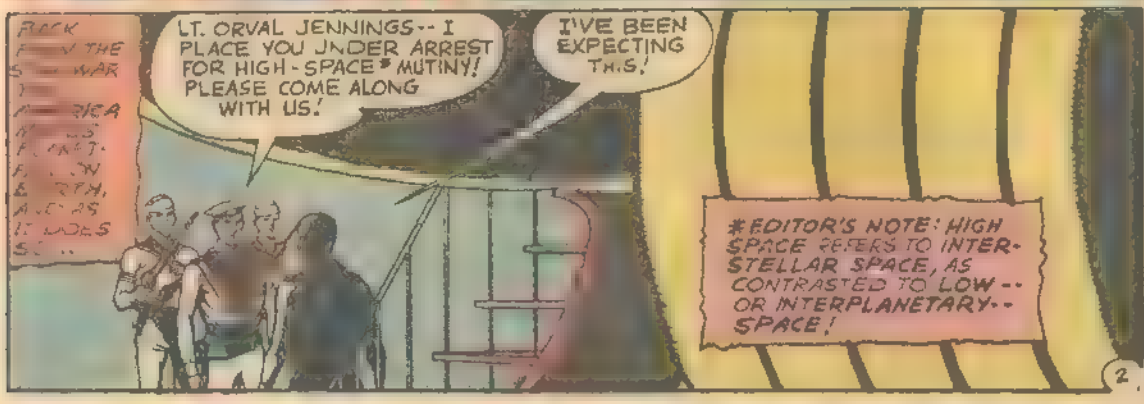
MUTINY in HIGH SPACE!


NEW YEAR'S DAY--2130--IS USHERED IN WITH WILD CELEBRATIONS ON EARTH AND ON ITS SOLAR-PLANET COLONIES...
VENUS
JUPITER
THIS VICTORY CELEBRATION OVER OUR ENEMY THE SFARRI IS BEING DUPLICATED ON ALL THE OTHER PLANETS, FOLKS!


BUT THE NEXT DAY, A GREAT DEBATE RAGES ON EARTH...
LT. JENNINGS IS A GREAT HERO--NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE SAYS!
BUT HE MUTINIED AGAINST HIS COMMANDING OFFICER--AND DESERVES TO BE PUNISHED!


...ON MARS' RED DESERTS...
THE FACT REMAINS, JENNINGS WON THE SPACE-WAR--PRACTICALLY SINGLE-HANDED!
CAPT. EVARTS WAS IN COMMAND! JENNINGS HAD NO RIGHT TO DISOBEY HIM--UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES!


...AND ON THE SEAS OF VENUS...
IF JENNINGS HADN'T DISOBEYED EVARTS, THE AMERICA WOULD SURELY HAVE BEEN DESTROYED AND WE'D HAVE LOST THE WAR!
WE'LL NEVER KNOW FOR SURE! I STILL SAY MUTINY IS MUTINY--AND JENNINGS SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED TO GET AWAY WITH IT!


BACK FROM THE SPACE-WAR
LT. ORVAL JENNINGS--I PLACE YOU UNDER ARREST FOR HIGH-SPACE* MUTINY! PLEASE COME ALONG WITH US!
I'VE BEEN EXPECTING THIS!
*EDITOR'S NOTE: HIGH SPACE REFERS TO INTERSTELLAR SPACE, AS CONTRASTED TO LOW--OR INTERPLANETARY--SPACE!

SHORTLY, AT THE HALL OF JUSTICE, LT. JENNINGS IS CONFRONTED BY HIS ACCUSER, CAPT. ROBERT EVARTS...

JENNINGS, I SWORE I'D STRIP YOU OF YOUR LIEUTENANT'S BARS FOR MUTINY-- AND NOW I WILL!

ORDER IN THE COURT!

BANG

AS THE HISTORIC TRIAL BEGINS, CAPT. ROBERT EVARTS TAKES THE STAND AND BEGINS HIS TESTIMONY...

AS YOU KNOW, EARTHMEN REACHED MARS IN 1971-- VENUS IN 1975--AND WENT TO THE STARS IN 2059! BY 2130, WE HAD COLONIES ON THE PLANETARY WORLDS OF SIRIUS AND VEGA!

"IT WAS THEN THAT THE LIZARD-LIKE RACE OF ALIENS KNOWN AS THE SFARRI BEGAN ATTACKING OUR STAR-COLONISTS..."

DESTROY THE EARTHLINGS!

THE STAR-WORLDS BELONG TO THE SFARRI...

EVERYWHERE THAT SFARRAN AND EARTHMAN MET, THERE WAS A BATTLE ROYAL..."

WE'D PREFER TO LIVE IN PEACE, BUT YOU LIZARDS INSIST ON WAR!

"THE SFARRI SOUGHT TO PUSH US OUT OF THE STARS AND BACK INTO OUR SOLAR SYSTEM, BUT WE WOULDN'T GIVE AN INCH..."

WE'RE WILLING TO SHARE OUR COLONIZED PLANETS WITH YOU, BUT WE CONTEND THE STARS ARE OPEN TO COLONIZATION BY EVERYONE!

NO! WE CLAIM THE STARS BELONG TO US ALONE!

"THEN BOTH MIGHTY BATTLE-FLEETS MET IN SPACE IN A TITANIC BATTLE..."

IT'S A STALEMATE! WE CAN'T OVERCOME THEM-- BUT THEY CAN'T DESTROY US, EITHER!

EUROPE 4

"SIX MONTHS AGO, A STARRI SUPER-DREADNOUGHT-- THE XENORIA-- APPEARED, WHICH BEGAN DESTROYING OUR FINEST VESSELS"

OUR MOST POWERFUL WEAPONS CAN'T PENETRATE ITS HULL! WE'RE HELPLESS!

"FORTUNATELY I HAD ALREADY DESIGNED AND BUILT A RADICALLY NEW-TYPE SPACESHIP WHICH WAS READY TO TRAVEL TO THE STARS..."

CAPT EVARTS, YOUR ORDERS ARE TO SEEK OUT AND DESTROY THE XENORIA!

I WILL NOT FAIL, ADMIRAL!

"THE AMERICA WAS EQUIPPED WITH THREE NEWLY-INVENTED WEAPONS, AT LEAST ONE OF WHICH WE HOPED WOULD BE EFFECTIVE AGAINST THE ALIEN SHIP."

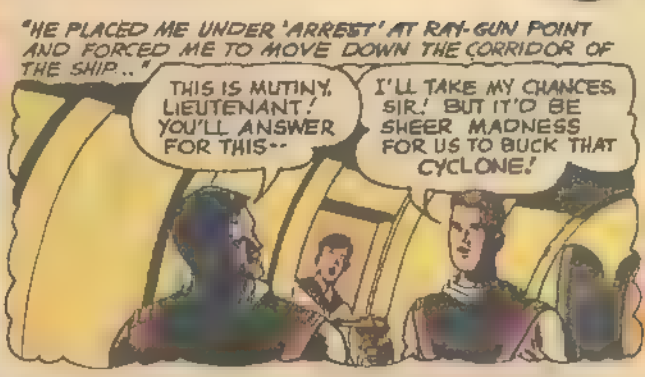
TRY AND TEST THESE BEFORE THE BATTLE, CAPTAIN! IF YOU SELECT THE WRONG WEAPON FOR YOUR OPENING BROADSIDE, THE XENORIA MAY NOT GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO FIRE A SECOND!

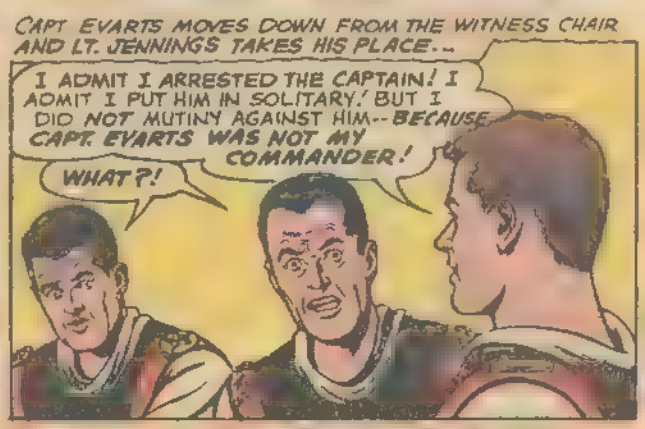
"THE AMERICA HURTLED AT HYPERSPATIAL SPEED TOWARD THE SPACE-VECTOR WHERE THE XENORIA WAS LAST REPORTED TO BE RAIDING..."

WE'LL TAKE COVER INSIDE THAT SPACE-CYCLONE AND SURPRISE THE ALIEN SHIP AS IT PASSES BY!

WHAT?! THAT SPACE-CYCLONE WOULD RIP THIS SHIP APART WITHIN FIVE MINUTES! PLEASE, CAPTAIN-- I BEG YOU TO RECONSIDER!

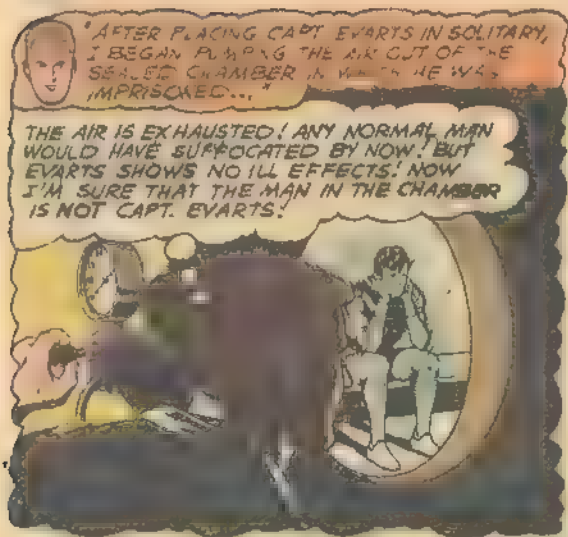
"WHEN I AGAIN ORDERED JENNINGS TO CARRY OUT MY PLANS, HE NOT JUST BALKED AT DOING IT, HE REFUSED....!"
I MUST REFUSE, CAPTAIN! WE KNOW FROM PAST EXPERIENCE THAT TO DO SO WOULD DESTROY THE SHIP AND EVERY MAN ON BOARD!

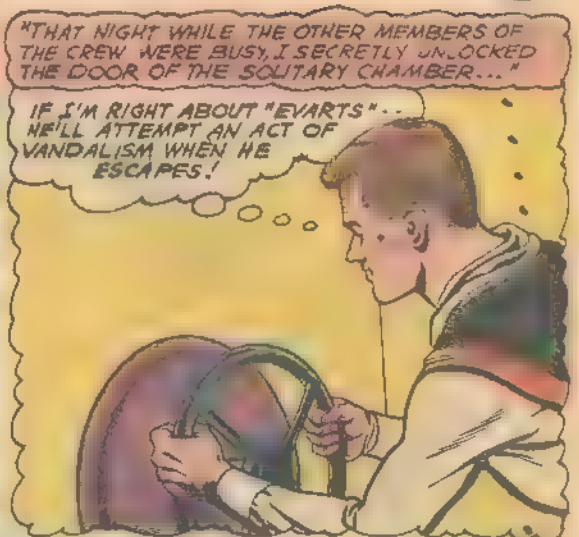

"HE PLACED ME UNDER 'ARREST' AT RAY-GUN POINT AND FORCED ME TO MOVE DOWN THE CORRIDOR OF THE SHIP.."
THIS IS MUTINY, LIEUTENANT! YOU'LL ANSWER FOR THIS--
I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES, SIR! BUT IT'D BE SHEER MADNESS FOR US TO BUCK THAT CYCLONE!

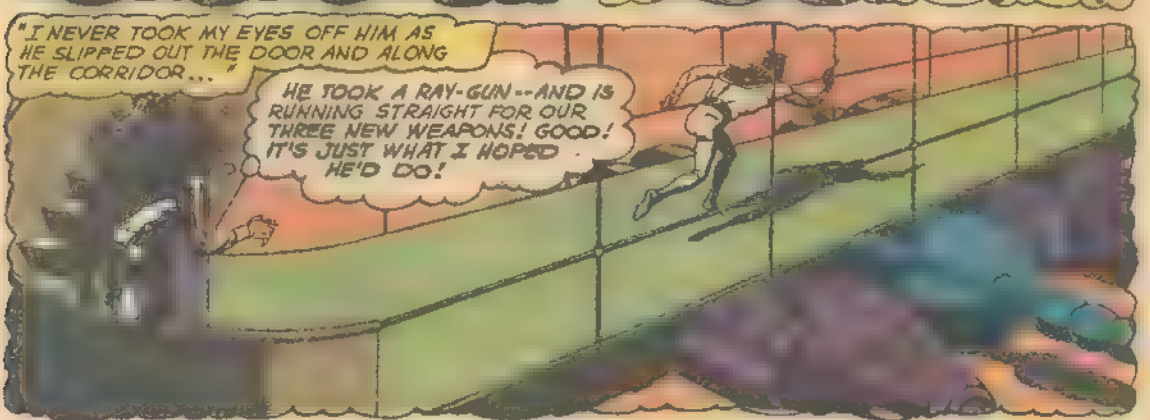

CAPT. EVARTS MOVES DOWN FROM THE WITNESS CHAIR AND LT. JENNINGS TAKES HIS PLACE...
I ADMIT I ARRESTED THE CAPTAIN! I ADMIT I PUT HIM IN SOLITARY! BUT I DID NOT MUTINY AGAINST HIM--BECAUSE CAPT. EVARTS WAS NOT MY COMMANDER!
WHAT?!

"REMEMBER SIRS--FOR THE PAST 100 YEARS A SPACE-CYCLONE HAD UTTERLY ANNIHILATED ANY SPACESHIP

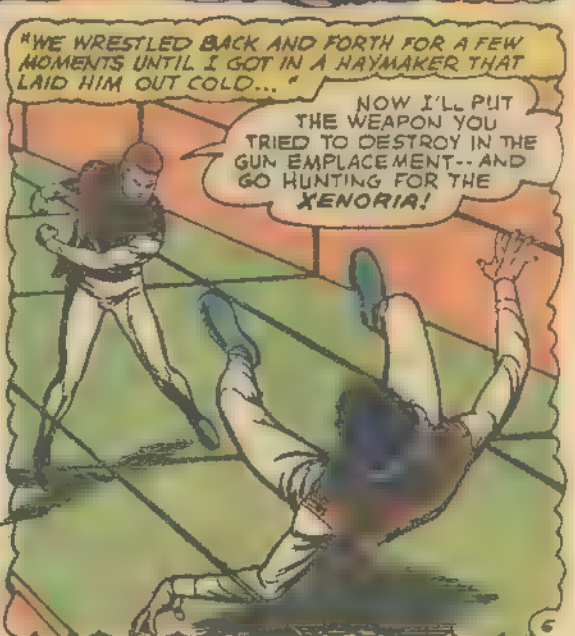
"I DARED NOT RISK THE DESTRUCTION OF THE AMERICA, FOR OUR SINGLE VESSEL WAS ALL THAT STOOD BETWEEN THE XENORIA AND A TRAGIC ATTACK ON EARTH ITSELF!"
NOW TO FIND OUT IF MY SUSPICIONS ABOUT CAPT. EVARTS ARE CORRECT!

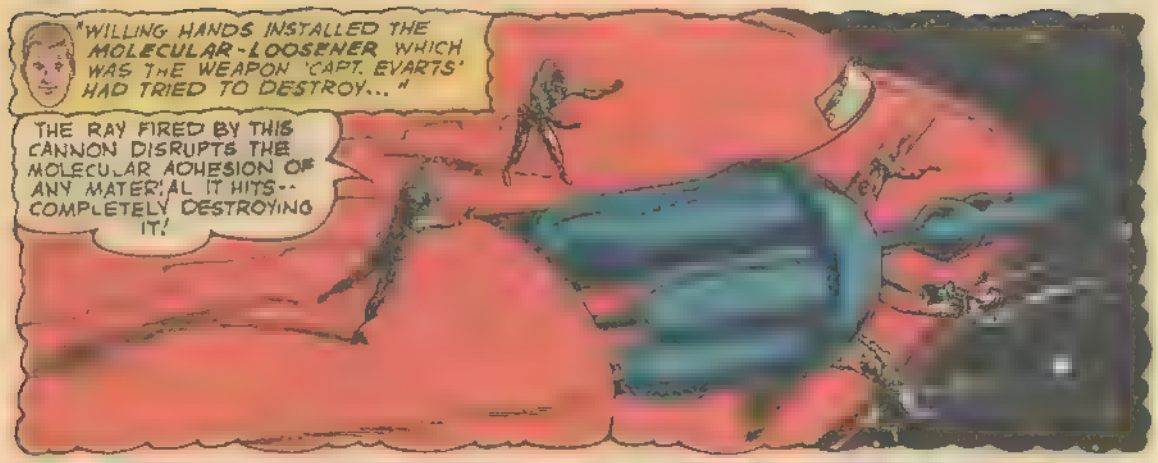

"AFTER PLACING CAPT. EVARTS IN SOLITARY, I BEGAN PUMPING THE AIR OUT OF THE SEALED CHAMBER IN WHICH HE WAS IMPRISONED..."
THE AIR IS EXHAUSTED! ANY NORMAL MAN WOULD HAVE SUFFOCATED BY NOW! BUT EVARTS SHOWS NO ILL EFFECTS! NOW I'M SURE THAT THE MAN IN THE CHAMBER IS NOT CAPT. EVARTS!


"THAT NIGHT WHILE THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CREW WERE BUSY, I SECRETLY UNLOCKED THE DOOR OF THE SOLITARY CHAMBER..."
IF I'M RIGHT ABOUT "EVARTS"... HE'LL ATTEMPT AN ACT OF VANDALISM WHEN HE ESCAPES!


"I NEVER TOOK MY EYES OFF HIM AS HE SLIPPED OUT THE DOOR AND ALONG THE CORRIDOR..."
HE TOOK A RAY-GUN--AND IS RUNNING STRAIGHT FOR OUR THREE NEW WEAPONS! GOOD! IT'S JUST WHAT I HOPED HE'D DO!

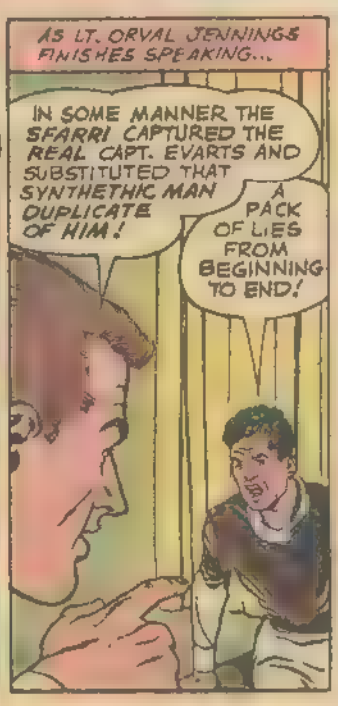
"I WAITED UNTIL HE LIFTED HIS RAY-BLASTER AT ONE OF THE WEAPONS BEFORE I DROVE FORWARD..."
SO THAT'S THE WEAPON THE SFARRI ARE AFRAID OF! THANKS FOR TIPPING ME OFF, WHOEVER YOU ARE!


"WE WRESTLED BACK AND FORTH FOR A FEW MOMENTS UNTIL I GOT IN A HAYMAKER THAT LAID HIM OUT COLD..."
NOW I'LL PUT THE WEAPON YOU TRIED TO DESTROY IN THE GUN EMPLACEMENT--AND GO HUNTING FOR THE XENORIA!

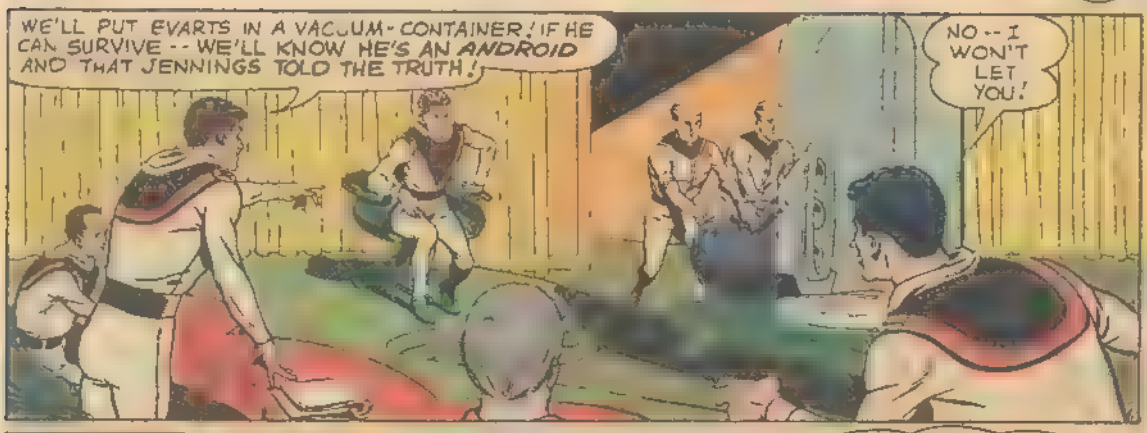

"WILLING HANDS INSTALLED THE MOLECULAR-LOOSENER WHICH WAS THE WEAPON 'CAPT. EVARTS' HAD TRIED TO DESTROY..."
THE RAY FIRED BY THIS CANNON DISRUPTS THE MOLECULAR ADHESION OF ANY MATERIAL IT HITS--COMPLETELY DESTROYING IT!

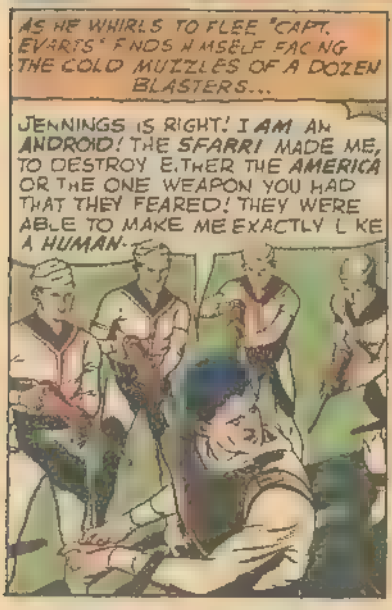
"ARMED AND SPOILING FOR A FIGHT WE MET THE XENORIA IN HIGH SPACE AND JOINED BATTLE WITH A BLAST FROM OUR POWERFUL WEAPON..."

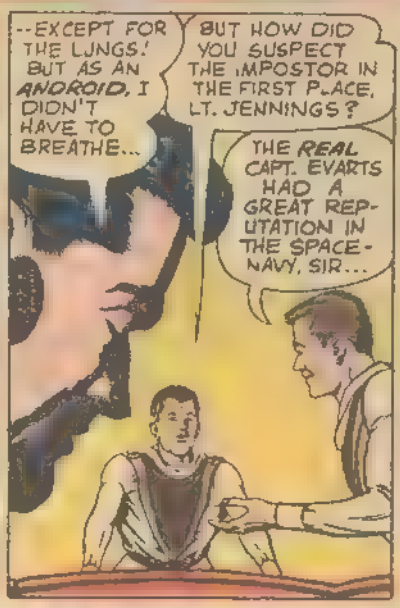
"THE FIGHT WAS SHORT AND BITTER! WITH HALF ITS BATTERIES KNOCKED OUT BY OUR FIRST SHOT, THE ALIEN SHIP WAS A SITTING DUCK..."
THE SFARRI MUST SURRENDER NOW! PREPARE TO SEND WORD TO EARTH...

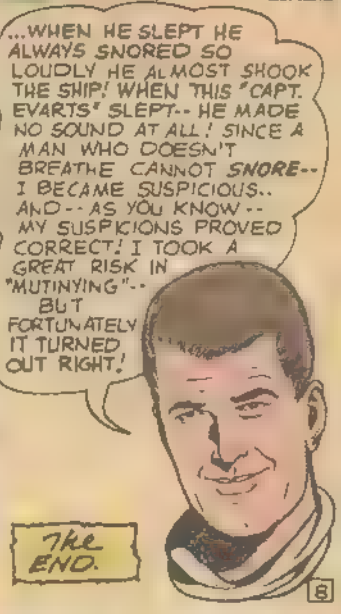

AS LT. ORVAL JENNINGS FINISHES SPEAKING...
IN SOME MANNER THE SFARRI CAPTURED THE REAL CAPT. EVARTS AND SUBSTITUTED THAT SYNTHETIC MAN DUPLICATE OF HIM!
A PACK OF LIES FROM BEGINNING TO END!

WHICH MAN IS TELLING THE TRUTH?
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO TELL!


WE'LL PUT EVARTS IN A VACUUM-CONTAINER! IF HE CAN SURVIVE -- WE'LL KNOW HE'S AN ANDROID AND THAT JENNINGS TOLD THE TRUTH!
NO -- I WON'T LET YOU!


AS HE WHIRLS TO FLEE "CAPT. EVARTS" FINDS HIMSELF FACING THE COLD MUZZLES OF A DOZEN BLASTERS...
JENNINGS IS RIGHT! I AM AN ANDROID! THE SFARRI MADE ME, TO DESTROY EITHER THE AMERICA OR THE ONE WEAPON YOU HAD THAT THEY FEARED! THEY WERE ABLE TO MAKE ME EXACTLY LIKE A HUMAN--


--EXCEPT FOR THE LUNGS! BUT AS AN ANDROID, I DIDN'T HAVE TO BREATHE...
BUT HOW DID YOU SUSPECT THE IMPOSTOR IN THE FIRST PLACE, LT. JENNINGS?
THE REAL CAPT. EVARTS HAD A GREAT REPUTATION IN THE SPACE-NAVY, SIR...

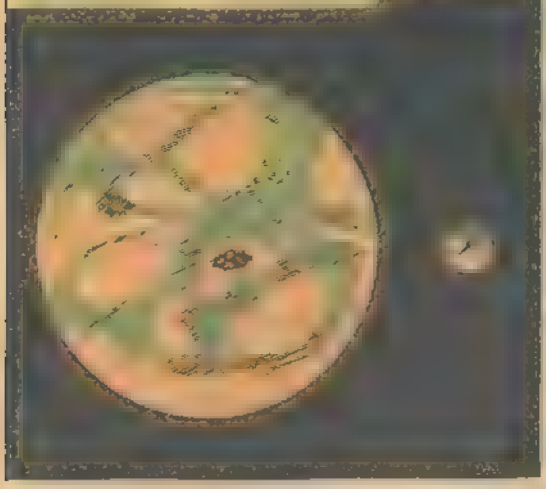

...WHEN HE SLEPT HE ALWAYS SNORED SO LOUDLY HE ALMOST SHOOK THE SHIP! WHEN THIS "CAPT. EVARTS" SLEPT-- HE MADE NO SOUND AT ALL! SINCE A MAN WHO DOESN'T BREATHE CANNOT SNORE-- I BECAME SUSPICIOUS.. AND-- AS YOU KNOW-- MY SUSPICIONS PROVED CORRECT! I TOOK A GREAT RISK IN "MUTINYING"-- BUT FORTUNATELY IT TURNED OUT RIGHT!
The END.
8

AMAZING ADVENTURES
HOUSE OF MYSTERY
GREATEST ADVENTURE
I FOUGHT THE LAST DRAGON!
THE INVASION OF THE FLYING REPTILES!
ON SALE EVERYWHERE!
TODAY'S MOST ELECTRIFYING MAGAZINES!
SUPERMAN DC NATIONAL COMICS

EARTH TO MARS!

ALLOWING FOR EVERY CONCEIVABLE COMBINATION OF RELATIVE POSITIONS IN THEIR ORBITS ABOUT THE SUN, THE DISTANCE BETWEEN EARTH AND MARS VARIES FROM 35,000,000 TO 249,375,000 MILES...

DIFFERENCES IN MARS' APPARENT DIAMETER AT MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM DISTANCES FROM EARTH...



COMPARATIVE SIZES OF EARTH AND MARS...

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WONDERS of SPACE

Dear Science Editor:

Assuming that flying saucers do not really exist, how do scientists explain the many sightings that have been reported?

—W.A., Cheyenne, Wyoming

Dear W.A.:

The flying saucer explanation that we like best is the one offered by Dr. Richard P. Youtz of Barnard College, at a recent meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association.

Most of us are familiar with the optical phenomenon of the *afterimage* that becomes apparent when you first look at a bright object (such as the sun or a photographic flash bulb) and then stare at a bright plain field such as a blank wall or a cloudy sky. On some occasions the afterimage retains the same color as the original object; other times the afterimage shows a complimentary color.

If you've ever had your picture taken by a photographer using flash bulbs, you must have experienced a flock of bulbs floating or dancing around in front of you—with the bulbs varying from bright yellow to dark purple. The next time that happens you can more readily see the afterimage by rapidly blinking your eyes, three times per second.

According to Dr. Youtz, the descriptions of flying saucers received from observers could easily apply to afterimages as well. The saucers are of different sizes—from those of regular household saucers all the way to the size of an ocean liner. But, as Dr. Youtz points out, the size of the afterimage likewise differs according to whether it is seen close at hand or far away. If an afterimage is seen on the wall of a room it will appear larger than when seen on a cloud 15,000 feet in the sky.

What about the incredible and soundless speeds with which saucers have been reputed to flash through our atmosphere? Dr. Youtz explains this by showing that an afterimage seen on a 15,000-foot-high cloud seems to move with the observer's eyes and thus appears to be faster than a jet plane.

To explain the mysterious and sudden disappearances of flying saucers after a couple of minutes, Dr. Youtz suggests that afterimages vanish in a similar manner after a short time.

As for the saucers being seen in a multitude of changing colors, it has been demonstrated that afterimages undergo the same color-changes.

Finally, the "flying formation" so often observed for flying saucers can be explained away by the identical illusion seen following several bright photographic flashes, when images of several flash bulbs are seen in a cluster.

—Science Editor

* * *

Dear Science Editor:

How many stars are there in our Milky Way Galaxy?

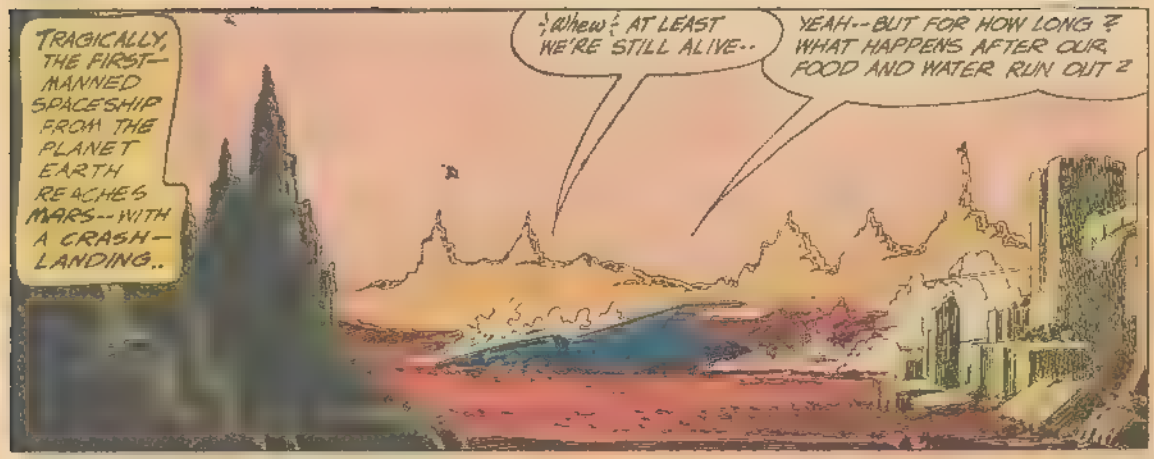
—N.T., St. Louis, Mo.

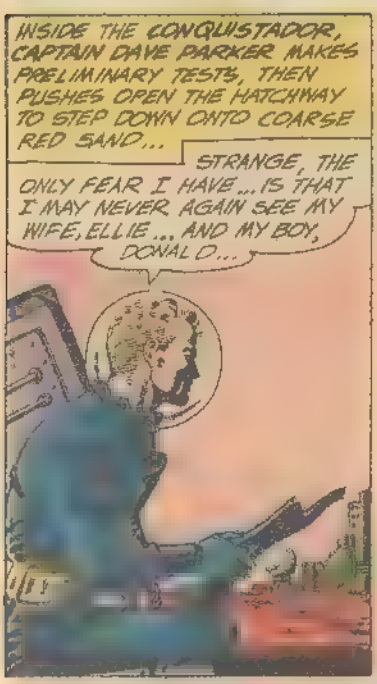
Dear N.T.:

The only thing for certain about the number of stars in our Galaxy is that we'll certainly never know the exact number! There are millions and millions—perhaps billions and billions!. Basing his estimate on a star count of galaxy stars up to and including those of magnitude 20, astronomer Seares calculated that the total number of galaxy stars is about 30 thousand million. However, since there are stars up to at least magnitude 60, and since Seares based his calculations on statistics of stars to magnitude 20 only (of which there are less than 1000 million—or hardly 3% of the derived total), not too much reliance can be placed on his calculations. Actually, other methods of attacking this problem have produced widely different results.

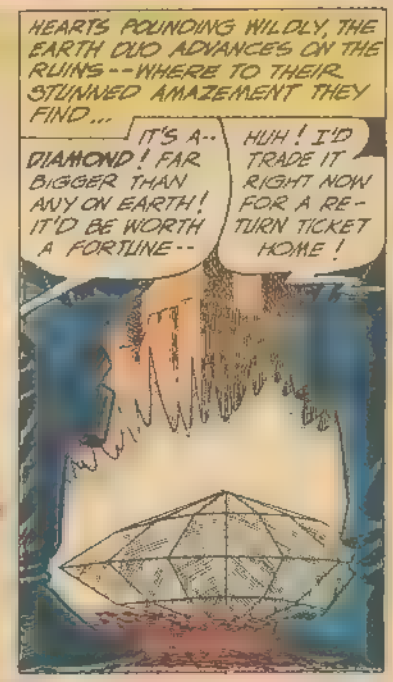
—Science Editor

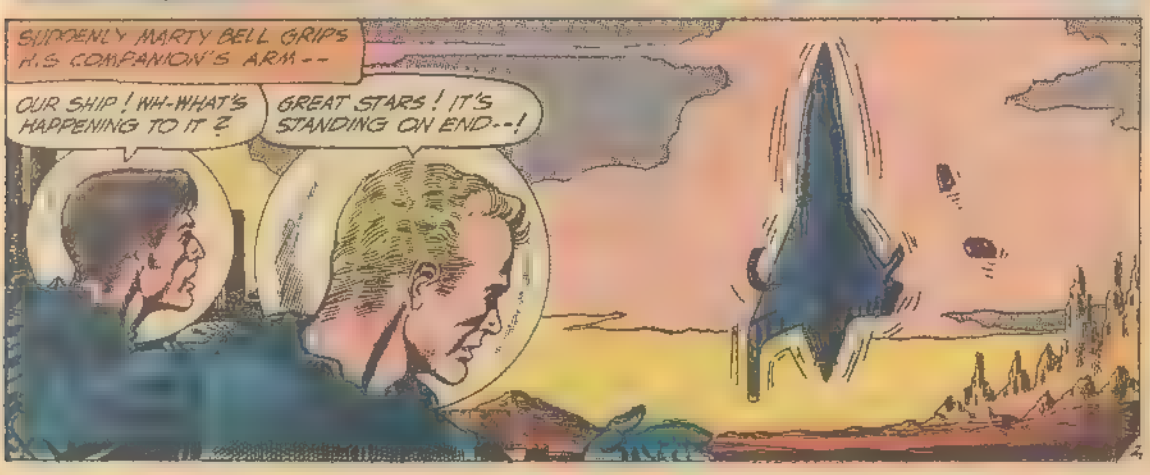
QUEST OF THE STAR-FLOWERS!

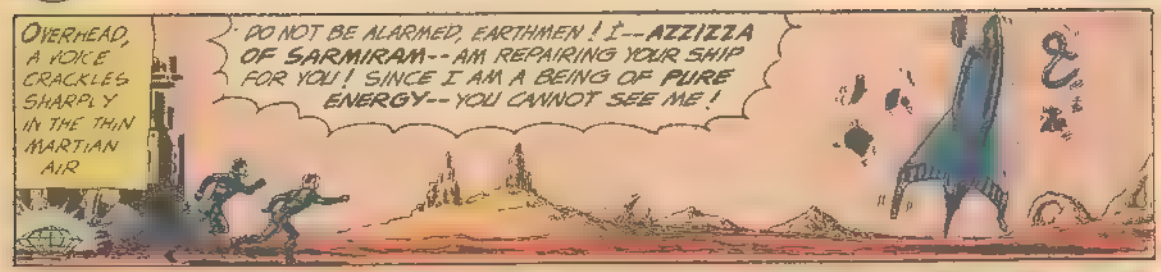

TRAGICALLY, THE FIRST-MANNED SPACESHIP FROM THE PLANET EARTH REACHES MARS--WITH A CRASH-LANDING..
¡Whew! AT LEAST WE'RE STILL ALIVE--
YEAH--BUT FOR HOW LONG? WHAT HAPPENS AFTER OUR FOOD AND WATER RUN OUT?


INSIDE THE CONQUISTADOR, CAPTAIN DAVE PARKER MAKES PRELIMINARY TESTS, THEN PUSHES OPEN THE HATCHWAY TO STEP DOWN ONTO COARSE RED SAND...
STRANGE, THE ONLY FEAR I HAVE... IS THAT I MAY NEVER AGAIN SEE MY WIFE, ELLIE... AND MY BOY, DONALD...

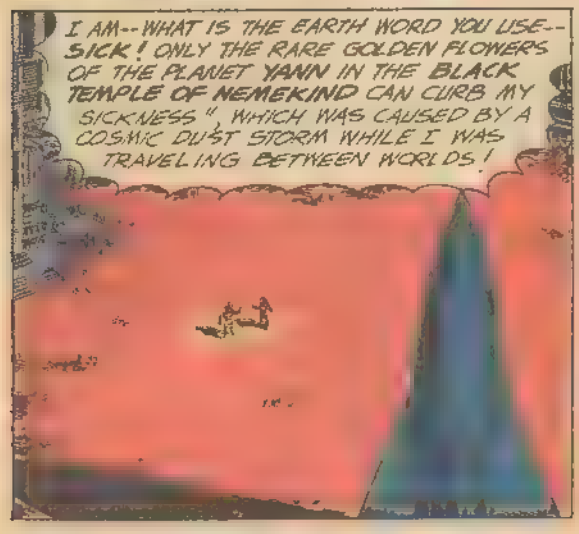
HIS COMPANION, CAPTAIN MARTY BELL, IS SOON BESIDE HIM...
YOU PROMISED YOU'D BRING DONALD A PET, TOO--IF WE FOUND LIFE HERE! SAY--LOOK YONDER, DAVE! YOU SEE SOMETHING BRIGHT IN THOSE OLD RUINS?

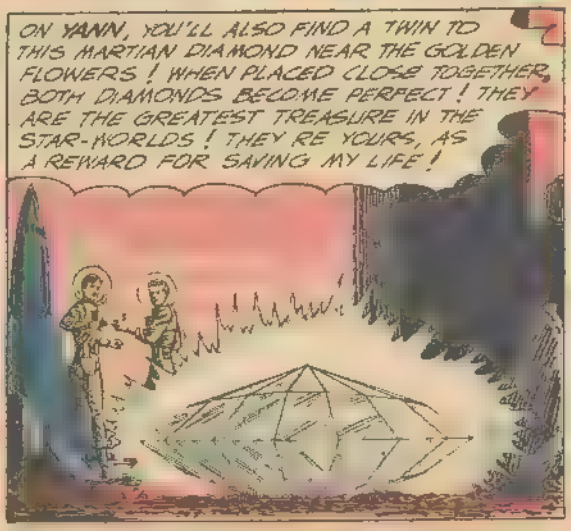

HEARTS POUNDING WILDLY, THE EARTH DUO ADVANCES ON THE RUINS--WHERE TO THEIR STUNNED AMAZEMENT THEY FIND...
IT'S A-- DIAMOND! FAR BIGGER THAN ANY ON EARTH! IT'D BE WORTH A FORTUNE--
HUH! I'D TRADE IT RIGHT NOW FOR A RETURN TICKET HOME!


SUDDENLY MARTY BELL GRIPS HIS COMPANION'S ARM--
OUR SHIP! WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING TO IT?
GREAT STARS! IT'S STANDING ON END--!

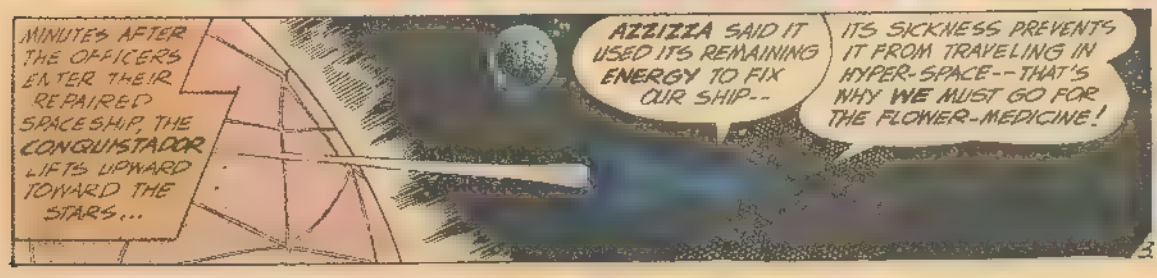

OVERHEAD, A VOICE CRACKLES SHARPLY IN THE THIN MARTIAN AIR
DO NOT BE ALARMED, EARTHMEN! I--AZZIZZA OF SARMIRAM--AM REPAIRING YOUR SHIP FOR YOU! SINCE I AM A BEING OF PURE ENERGY--YOU CANNOT SEE ME!

IN AWE, THE TWO CAPTAINS WATCH THE CONQUISTADOR AS "INVISIBLE HANDS" REPAIR IT...
NOW THAT I HAVE SAVED YOUR LIVES BY REPAIRING YOUR SHIP--YOU CAN DO SOMETHING TO SAVE ME!

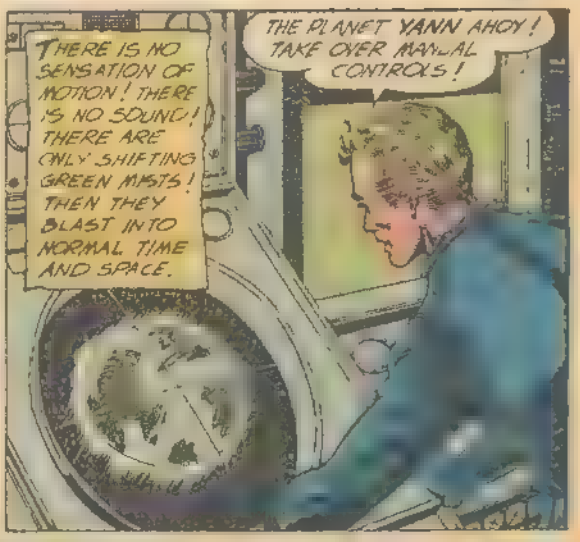

I AM--WHAT IS THE EARTH WORD YOU USE--SICK! ONLY THE RARE GOLDEN FLOWERS OF THE PLANET YANN IN THE BLACK TEMPLE OF NEMEKIND CAN CURB MY SICKNESS" WHICH WAS CAUSED BY A COSMIC DUST STORM WHILE I WAS TRAVELING BETWEEN WORLDS!

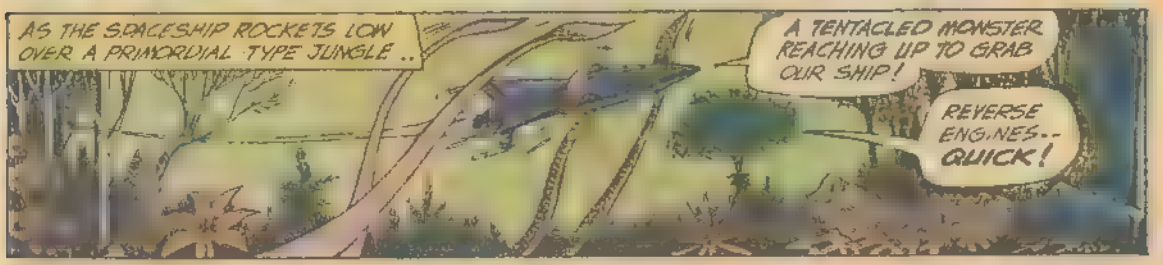

ON YANN, YOU'LL ALSO FIND A TWIN TO THIS MARTIAN DIAMOND NEAR THE GOLDEN FLOWERS! WHEN PLACED CLOSE TOGETHER, BOTH DIAMONDS BECOME PERFECT! THEY ARE THE GREATEST TREASURE IN THE STAR-WORLDS! THEY RE YOURS, AS A REWARD FOR SAVING MY LIFE!

WILL YOU TRAVEL TO THE PLANET YANN OF THE STAR-SUN PROCYON AND DO AS I ASK? THE JOURNEY WILL TAKE BUT ONE DAY IN HYPER-SPACE!
WHAT DO YOU SAY, MARTY?
LET'S GO! WHO COULD TURN DOWN A DIAMOND FORTUNE FOR A SIMPLE JOB LIKE THAT?

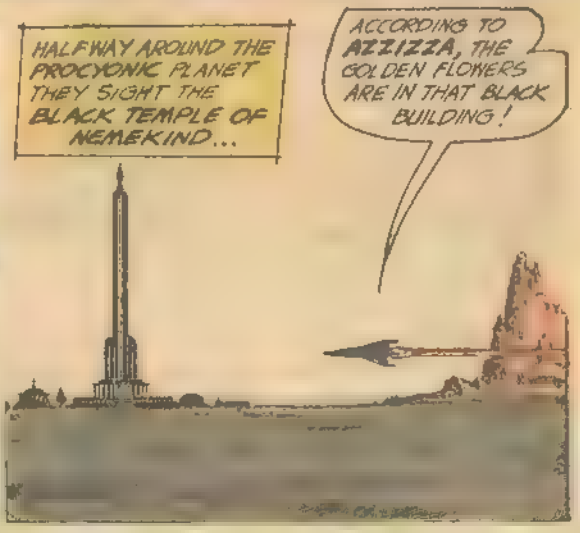

MINUTES AFTER THE OFFICERS ENTER THEIR REPAIRED SPACESHIP, THE CONQUISTADOR LIFTS UPWARD TOWARD THE STARS...
AZZIZZA SAID IT USED ITS REMAINING ENERGY TO FIX OUR SHIP--
ITS SICKNESS PREVENTS IT FROM TRAVELING IN HYPER-SPACE--THAT'S WHY WE MUST GO FOR THE FLOWER-MEDICINE!

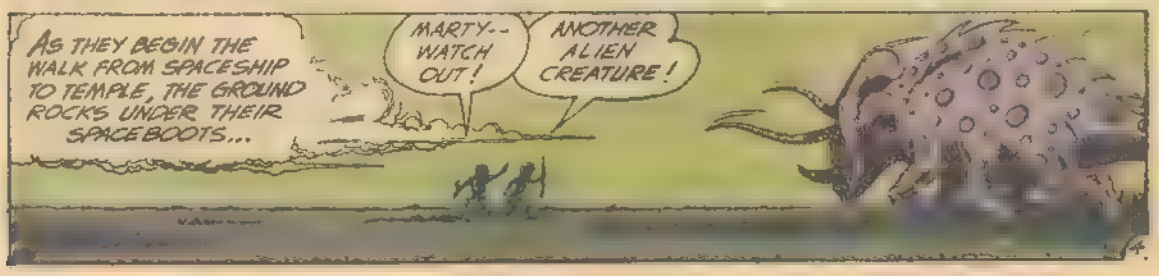
CAPTAIN PARKER PRESSES A SPECIAL CONTROL BUTTON AND A GREEN LIGHT FLOODS THE STARSHIP AS THE MISTS OF HYPER-SPACE CLOSE IN ABOUT THE CONQUISTADOR...
SO THIS IS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO TRAVEL IN A SPACE-WARP!


THERE IS NO SENSATION OF MOTION! THERE IS NO SOUND! THERE ARE ONLY SHIFTING GREEN MISTS! THEN THEY BLAST INTO NORMAL TIME AND SPACE.
THE PLANET YANN AHOY! TAKE OVER MANUAL CONTROLS!

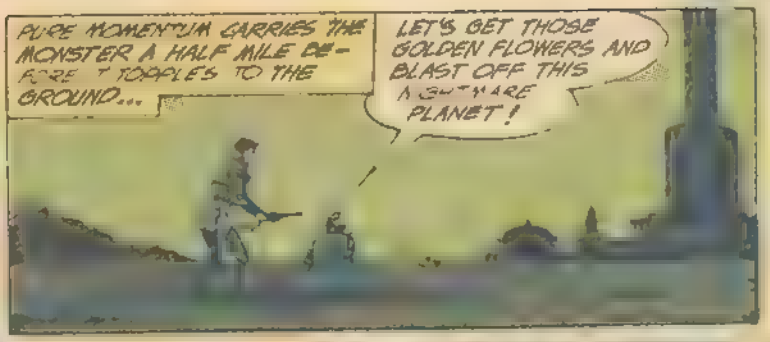

AS THE SPACESHIP ROCKETS LOW OVER A PRIMORDIAL TYPE JUNGLE ..
A TENTACLED MONSTER REACHING UP TO GRAB OUR SHIP!
REVERSE ENGINES-- QUICK!

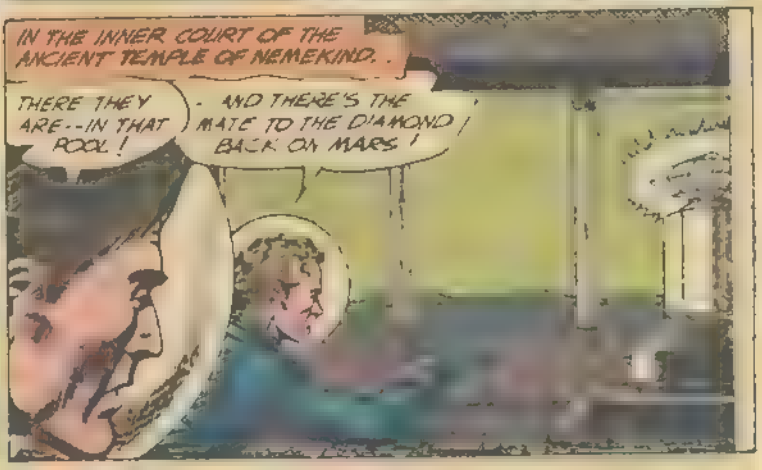
WITH MOTORS LABORING AGAINST THE TITANIC PULL OF THE UNSEEN MONSTER, THE CONQUISTADOR TURNS SKYWARD--AND LETS GO WITH ALL JETS...
WE ELIMINATED THAT MENACE QUICK ENOUGH!


HALFWAY AROUND THE PROCYONIC PLANET THEY SIGHT THE BLACK TEMPLE OF NEMEKIND...
ACCORDING TO AZZIZZA, THE GOLDEN FLOWERS ARE IN THAT BLACK BUILDING!


AS THEY BEGIN THE WALK FROM SPACESHIP TO TEMPLE, THE GROUND ROCKS UNDER THEIR SPACEBOOTS...
MARTY-- WATCH OUT!
ANOTHER ALIEN CREATURE!

INCHES FROM DESTRUCTION, BOTH MEN LET GO WITH THEIR AUTOMATIC RIFLES..
POW!
POW!
POW!

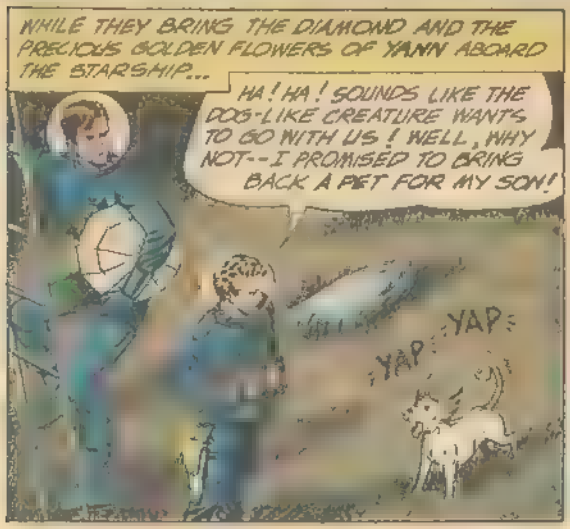

PURE MOMENTUM CARRIES THE MONSTER A HALF MILE BEFORE IT TOPPLES TO THE GROUND...
LET'S GET THOSE GOLDEN FLOWERS AND BLAST OFF THIS NIGHTMARE PLANET!

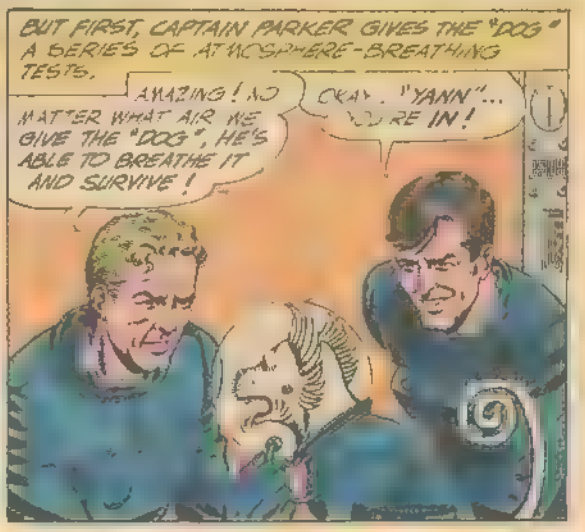

IN THE INNER COURT OF THE ANCIENT TEMPLE OF NEMEKIND..
THERE THEY ARE--IN THAT POOL!
AND THERE'S THE MATE TO THE DIAMOND BACK ON MARS!

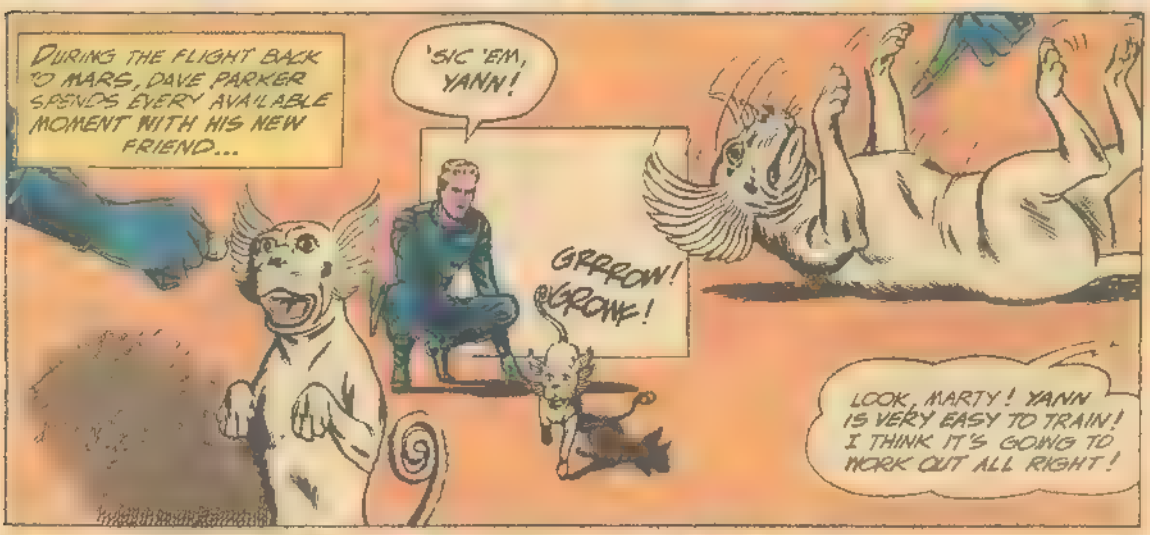
AS CAPTAIN PARKER BENDS TO PLUCK A FEW OF THE GOLDEN BLOSSOMS..
MARTY, HELP! A WATER CREATURE'S CAUGHT HOLD OF ME--PULLING ME DOWN INTO THE POOL!

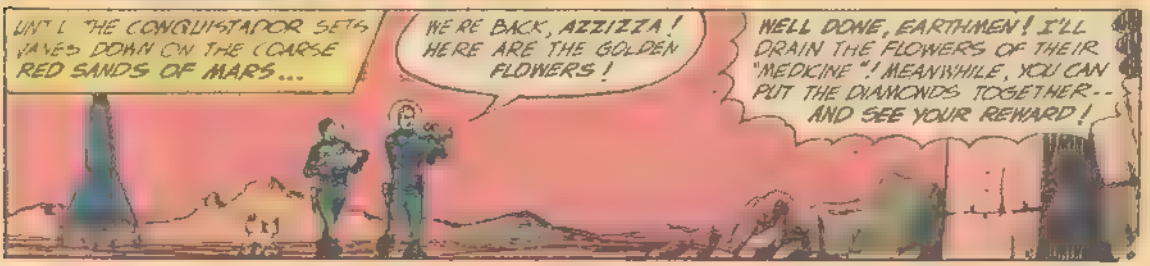
THERE IS NO TIME TO AIM! CAPTAIN BELL YANKS HIS SERVICE REVOLVER AND TRIGGERS IT BLINDLY.
YOU MISSED IT! IT LET GO!
GRAB SOME MORE FLOWERS--THEN COVER ME WHILE I GET THAT DIAMOND! THEN WE'LL BLAST JETS OUT OF THIS PLACE!
BAM!
BAM!

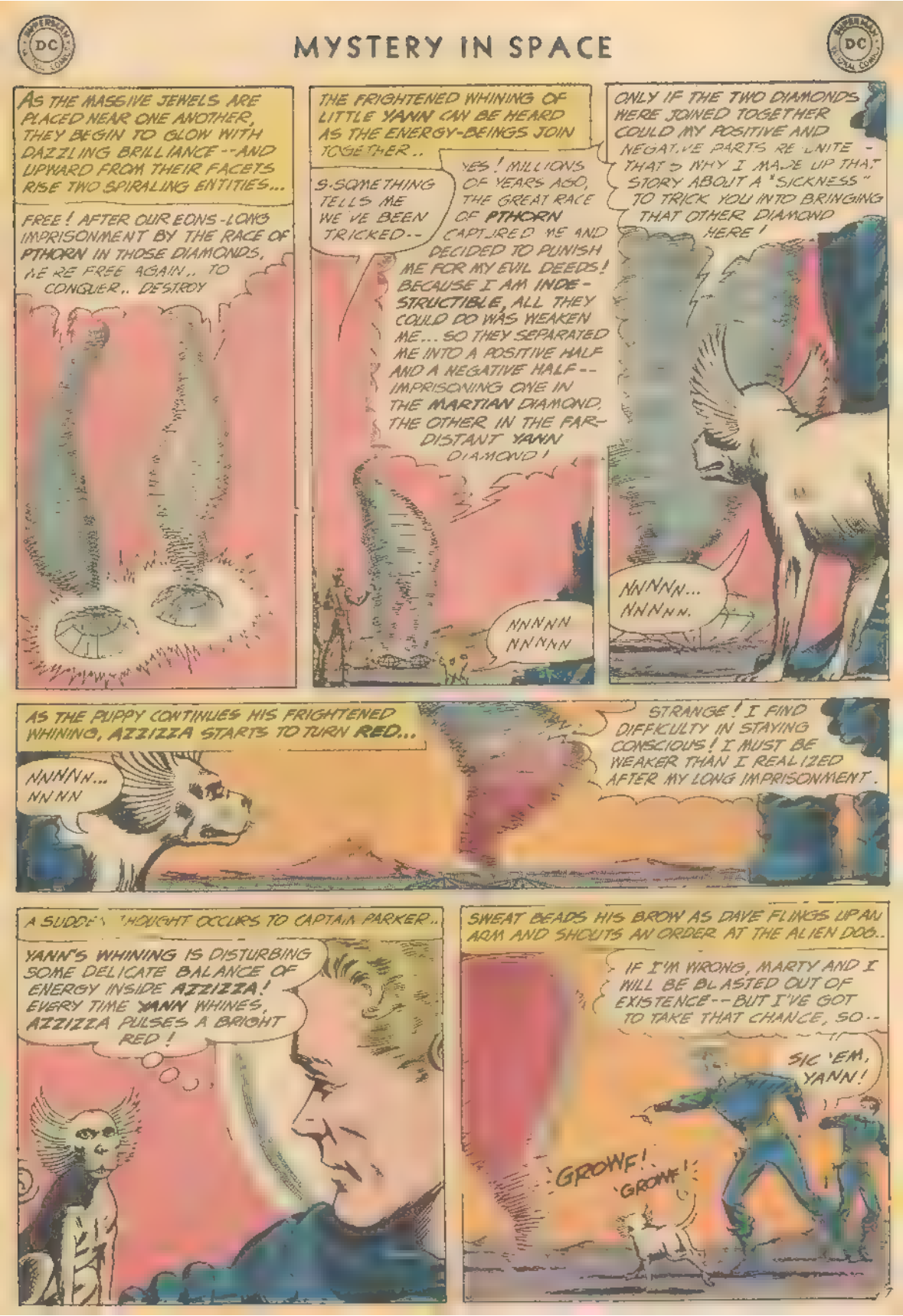
AS THEY HOTFOOT IT ACROSS THE GRASSLANDS WITH FLOWERS AND DIAMOND...
HELLO THERE, FELLA! WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?
YAP
YAP

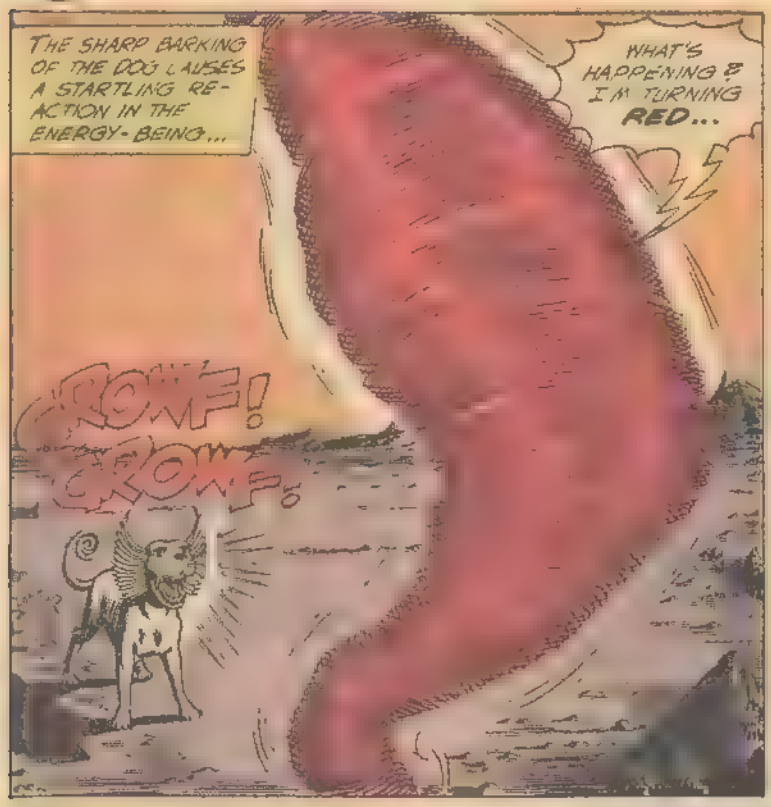

WHILE THEY BRING THE DIAMOND AND THE PRECIOUS GOLDEN FLOWERS OF YANN ABOARD THE STARSHIP...
HA! HA! SOUNDS LIKE THE DOG-LIKE CREATURE WANTS TO GO WITH US! WELL, WHY NOT--I PROMISED TO BRING BACK A PET FOR MY SON!
YAP
YAP


BUT FIRST, CAPTAIN PARKER GIVES THE "DOG" A SERIES OF ATMOSPHERE-BREATHING TESTS.
AMAZING! NO MATTER WHAT AIR WE GIVE THE "DOG", HE'S ABLE TO BREATHE IT AND SURVIVE!
OKAY, "YANN"... YOU'RE IN!

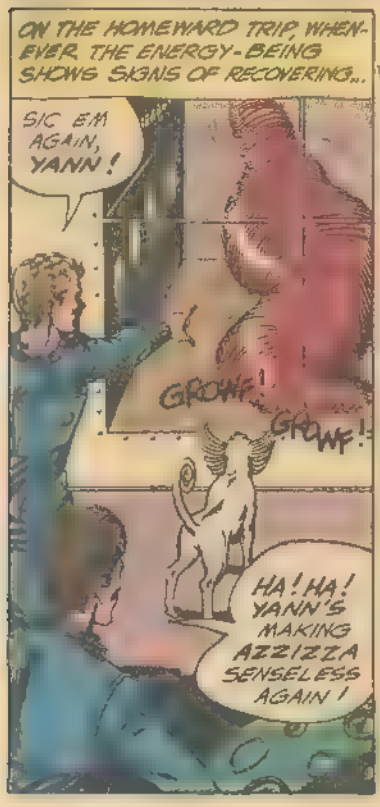

DURING THE FLIGHT BACK TO MARS, DAVE PARKER SPENDS EVERY AVAILABLE MOMENT WITH HIS NEW FRIEND...
'SIC 'EM, YANN!
GRRROW! GRONK!
LOOK, MARTY! YANN IS VERY EASY TO TRAIN! I THINK IT'S GOING TO WORK OUT ALL RIGHT!


UNTIL THE CONQUISTADOR SETS WAVES DOWN ON THE COARSE RED SANDS OF MARS...
WE'RE BACK, AZZIZZA! HERE ARE THE GOLDEN FLOWERS!
WELL DONE, EARTHMEN! I'LL DRAIN THE FLOWERS OF THEIR "MEDICINE"! MEANWHILE, YOU CAN PUT THE DIAMONDS TOGETHER--AND SEE YOUR REWARD!

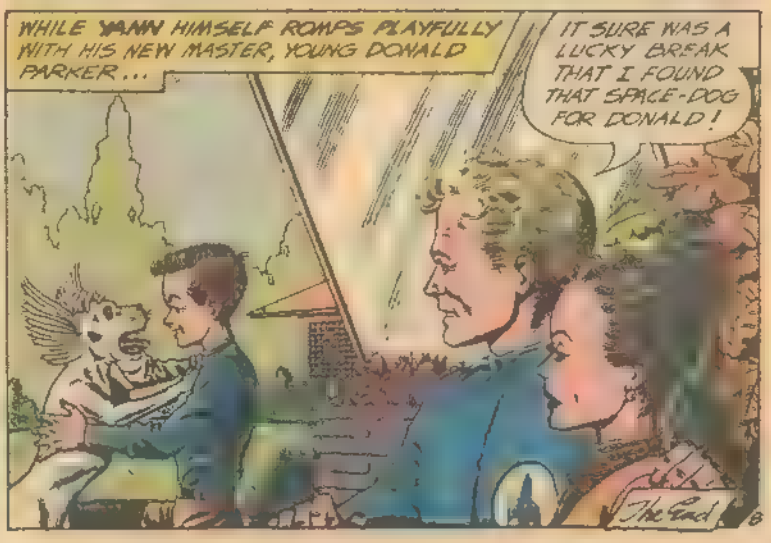

AS THE MASSIVE JEWELS ARE PLACED NEAR ONE ANOTHER, THEY BEGIN TO GLOW WITH DAZZLING BRILLIANCE--AND UPWARD FROM THEIR FACETS RISE TWO SPIRALING ENTITIES...
FREE! AFTER OUR EONS-LONG IMPRISONMENT BY THE RACE OF PTHORN IN THOSE DIAMONDS, WE'RE FREE AGAIN.. TO CONQUER.. DESTROY
THE FRIGHTENED WHINING OF LITTLE YANN CAN BE HEARD AS THE ENERGY-BEINGS JOIN TOGETHER..
S-SOMETHING TELLS ME WE'VE BEEN TRICKED--
YES! MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO, THE GREAT RACE OF PTHORN CAPTURED ME AND DECIDED TO PUNISH ME FOR MY EVIL DEEDS! BECAUSE I AM INDESTRUCTIBLE, ALL THEY COULD DO WAS WEAKEN ME... SO THEY SEPARATED ME INTO A POSITIVE HALF AND A NEGATIVE HALF--IMPRISONING ONE IN THE MARTIAN DIAMOND, THE OTHER IN THE FAR-DISTANT YANN DIAMOND!
NNNNN NNNNN
ONLY IF THE TWO DIAMONDS WERE JOINED TOGETHER COULD MY POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE PARTS RE-UNITE - THAT'S WHY I MADE UP THAT STORY ABOUT A "SICKNESS" TO TRICK YOU INTO BRINGING THAT OTHER DIAMOND HERE!
NNNNN... NNNNN.
AS THE PUPPY CONTINUES HIS FRIGHTENED WHINING, AZZIZZA STARTS TO TURN RED...
NNNNN... NNNN
STRANGE! I FIND DIFFICULTY IN STAYING CONSCIOUS! I MUST BE WEAKER THAN I REALIZED AFTER MY LONG IMPRISONMENT.
A SUDDEN THOUGHT OCCURS TO CAPTAIN PARKER..
YANN'S WHINING IS DISTURBING SOME DELICATE BALANCE OF ENERGY INSIDE AZZIZZA! EVERY TIME YANN WHINES, AZZIZZA PULSES A BRIGHT RED!
SWEAT BEADS HIS BROW AS DAVE FLINGS UP AN ARM AND SHOUTS AN ORDER AT THE ALIEN DOG..
IF I'M WRONG, MARTY AND I WILL BE BLASTED OUT OF EXISTENCE--BUT I'VE GOT TO TAKE THAT CHANCE, SO--
SIC 'EM, YANN!
GROWF! GROWF!


THE SHARP BARKING OF THE DOG CAUSES A STARTLING RE-ACTION IN THE ENERGY-BEING...
WHAT'S HAPPENING? I'M TURNING RED...
GROWF!
GROWF!

AN INSTANT LATER...
BY GOLLY, IT WORKED! YANN'S BARK KNOCKED AZZIZZA COLD! YOU KNOW, I BET THE PTHORN LEFT ALL THOSE ANIMALS ON YANN TO KEEP AZZIZZA IN SUBJECTION IF IT EVER GOT FREE!
IF ONLY WE CAN KEEP AZZIZZA UNCONSCIOUS...


ON THE HOMEWARD TRIP, WHENEVER THE ENERGY-BEING SHOWS SIGNS OF RECOVERING...
SIC EM AGAIN, YANN!
GROWF!
GROWF!
HA! HA! YANN'S MAKING AZZIZZA SENSELESS AGAIN!

BACK ON EARTH, AZZIZZA IS SEALED WITHIN A GREAT VAULT OF STONE AND STEEL--AND THE RECORDINGS OF YANN'S BARKS ARE FED TO IT CONSTANTLY TO KEEP IT HELPLESS FOREVER...
GROWF!
GROWF!
GROWF!


WHILE YANN HIMSELF ROMPS PLAYFULLY WITH HIS NEW MASTER, YOUNG DONALD PARKER...
IT SURE WAS A LUCKY BREAK THAT I FOUND THAT SPACE-DOG FOR DONALD!
The End

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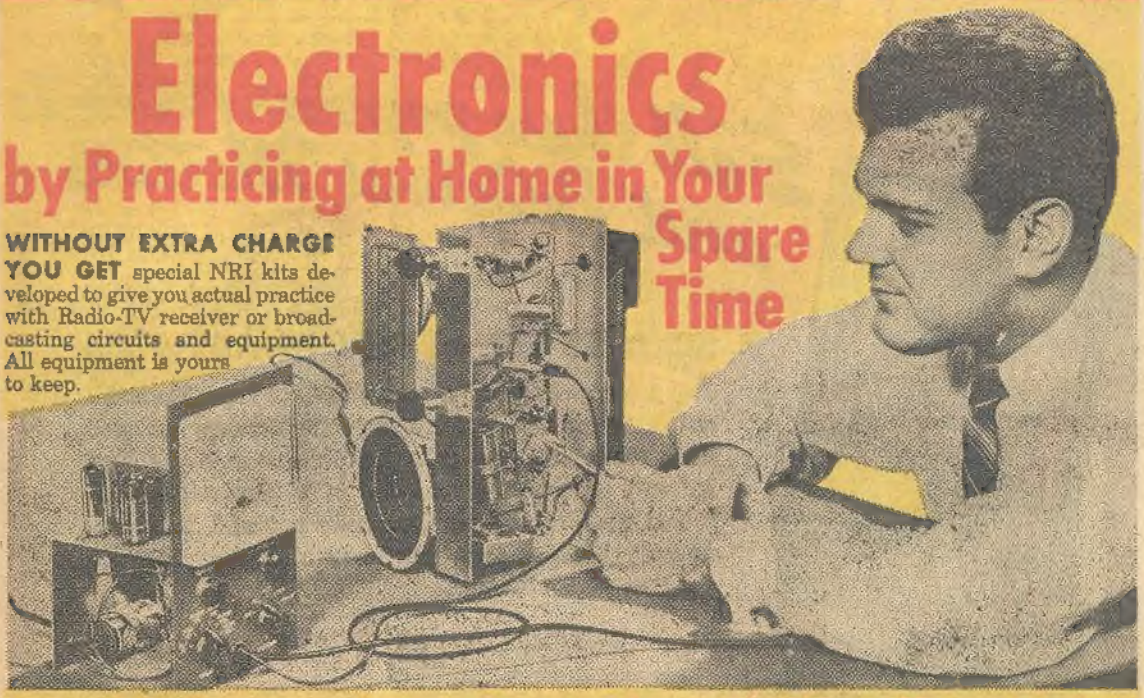

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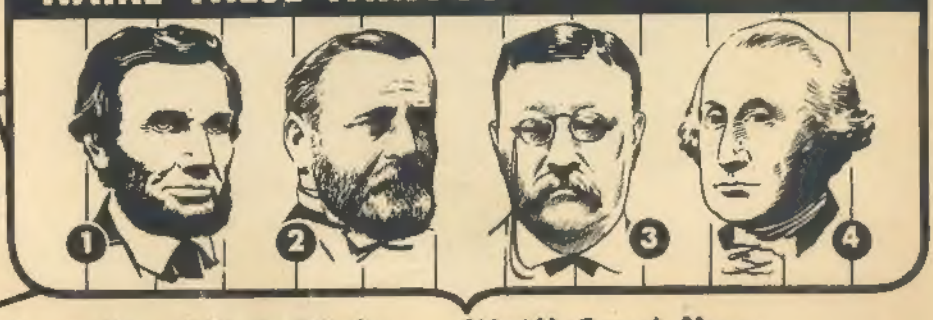

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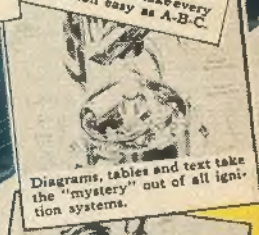

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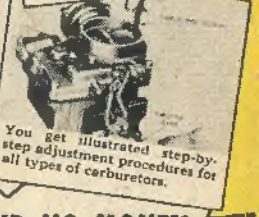

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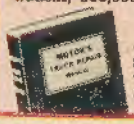

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